

## Gibbs: Concern over body scans will be considered

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A crowd of Cambodians are pushed onto a bridge on the last day of celebrations of a water festival in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Monday, Nov. 22, 2010. Thousands of people celebrating a water festival on a small island in a Cambodian river stampeded Monday evening, killing at least 17 people, a hospital official said. Hundreds more were hurt as the crowd panicked and pushed over a bridge to the mainland.

Associated Press

### Over 330 die in stampede at Cambodian festival

SOPHENG CHEANG

Associated Press

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — Thousands of people stampeded during a festival in the Cambodian capital Monday night, leaving more than 330 dead and hundreds injured in what the prime minister called the country's biggest tragedy since the 1970s reign of terror by the Khmer Rouge.

Some in the panicky crowd — who were celebrating the end of the rainy season on a sliver of land in a river — tried to flee over a bridge and were crushed underfoot or fell over its sides into the water. A witness who arrived shortly after the stampede described “bodies stacked on bodies” on the bridge as rescuers swarmed the area.

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This Sept. 9, 2010 photo shows an Olympus Innov-X Delta Handheld XRF Analyzer testing glassware decorated with a Ronald McDonald character for cadmium, lead and other toxic elements in Los Angeles. The device is used for the analysis of environmental, geological, biological, industrial and other samples.

(AP Photo/Richard Vogel)

### Feds to investigate glasses in AP report on lead

By JUSTIN PRITCHARD,

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Federal regulators say they have launched an investigation into drinking glasses that lab testing shows have high levels of lead in their colored decorations.

Testing commissioned by The Associated Press revealed that the glasses had lead up to 1,000 times the federal limit for children's products. The glasses depicted comic book and movie characters such as Superman, Wonder Woman and the Tin Man from “The Wizard of Oz.”

A spokesman for the U-S Consumer Product Safety Commission said Monday that the agency considers the glasses to be children's products and is currently getting samples for its own testing.

The manufacturer told A-P that the glasses passed its testing and that they are targeted to adult collectors. □



### JUSTICE PREVAILS

*Jury convicts immigrant of murdering Chandra Levy*

FILE - In this May 28, 2002 file photo, photographs of Chandra Levy are on display as musicians, right, stand by at the memorial service for Levy at the Modesto Centre Plaza in Modesto, Calif. More than nine years after her disappearance became a mystery that garnered national attention, opening statements are scheduled to begin Monday, Oct. 25, 2010, in the murder trial of the man accused of killing Washington intern Chandra Levy.

(AP Photo/Debbie Noda, Pool, File)

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# Police eye death of boy who fell at Staples Center

By **ROBERT JABLON**,  
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES – A police investigation was under way Monday in the death of a toddler who plunged from a third-level luxury box at Staples Center after a Los Angeles Lakers basketball game.

The fall occurred Sunday as 2-year-old Lucas Anthony Tang was taking pictures with his family in a skybox with a glass safety barrier that varies in height but is at least several feet high, police Officer Julie Sohn said.

“Somehow the child went over the edge of the section and fell to the seating below,” Sohn said.

Fire officials said boy fell 25 to 50 feet.

The case was being handled by the Police Department juvenile division, which

investigates deaths of young children and other crimes involving juveniles. “It’s procedural,” Sohn said of the probe involving Tang, declining to elaborate or discuss possible causes of the fall.

The Garden Grove boy suffered severe head trauma, Fire Department spokesman Erik Scott said. However, an official cause of death had not yet been determined.

Witnesses said the boy was moving his arms, legs and head when paramedics put him in an ambulance, said Michael Roth, vice president of communications for Staples Center and owner AEG. The child later died at a hospital.

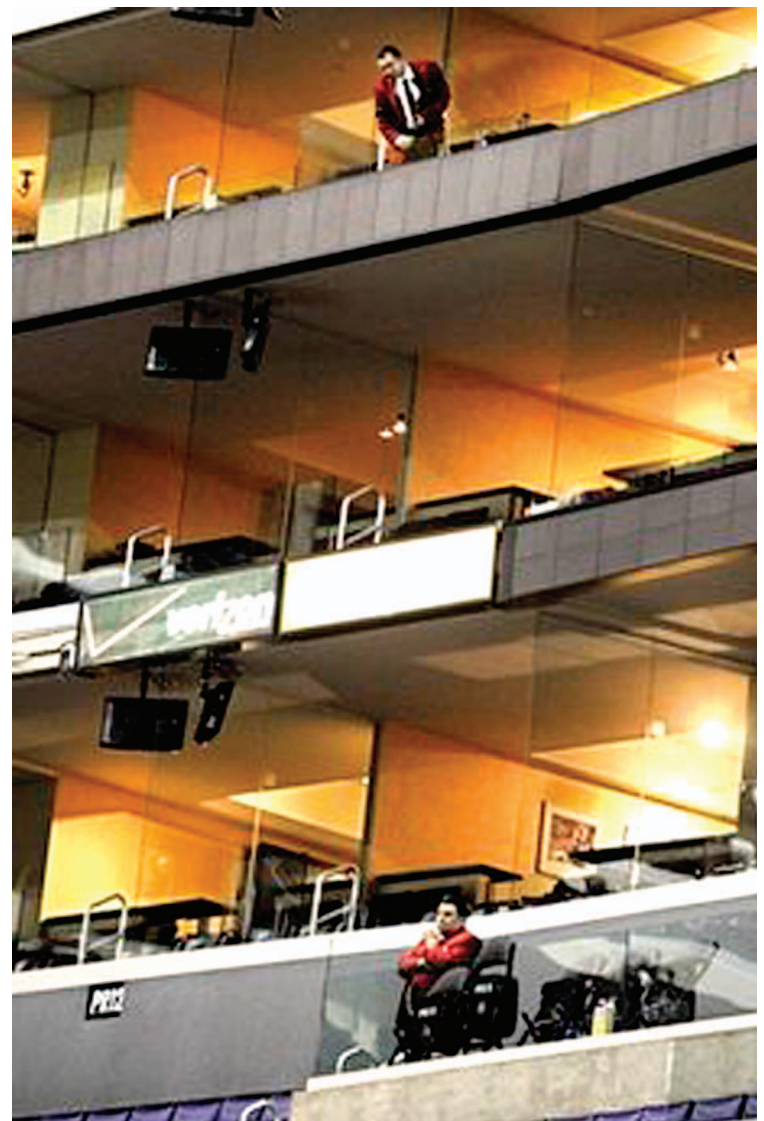
“Our condolences and prayers go to the Tang family. We are working with the Los Angeles

Police Department on the investigation of this tragedy,” Roth added in a short prepared statement.

Tang fell several minutes after the Lakers beat the Golden State Warriors. There was no immediate word on whether the death would affect the Staples schedule, which included a Monday night game between the Los Angeles Clippers and New Orleans Hornets. □

A security guard, top, looks down from where a young boy fell to where a second security guard stands following the Los Angeles Lakers’ NBA basketball game against the Golden State Warriors at Staples Center, Sunday, Nov. 21, 2010, in Los Angeles. The boy was transported to a local hospital in an unknown condition.

(AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill)



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# Jury convicts immigrant of murdering Chandra Levy

By MATTHEW BARAKAT,

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A jury found a Salvadoran immigrant guilty on Monday of murdering Washington intern Chandra Levy back in 2001, when her disappearance became a national sensation.

Ingmar Guandique was convicted of two counts of first-degree murder for attacking Levy while she exercised in Washington's Rock Creek Park in May 2001. Her disappearance made headlines when she was romantically linked to then-Rep. Gary Condit, D-Calif. Condit was once a suspect, but police no longer believe he was involved.

Speaking outside the courthouse, Levy's mother said she'll never be free from the pain of losing her daughter. "I have a lifetime sentence of a lost limb missing from our family tree," Susan Levy said after the hearing. "It's a lifetime of a broken heart."

Investigators eventually focused on Guandique (gwahn-DEE-kay) and brought formal charges last year. Prosecutors acknowledged they had little direct evidence but said Levy's death fit a pattern of other crimes committed by Guandique in the park.

The defense argued that Guandique became a scapegoat for a botched investigation.

In a telephone interview, Condit's lawyer Bert Fields said the verdict represents a vindication that comes too late to repair the damage to his client's career.

"At least Gary Condit can find some measure of closure to this nightmare," Fields said. "It's a complete vindication but that comes a little late. Who gives him his career back?"

The jury deliberated over parts of four days before returning with a verdict shortly before noon Monday. They could have opted for a conviction

of second-degree murder, but instead chose the more serious counts. Guandique could be sentenced to a minimum of 30 years and a maximum of life in prison. Sentencing was set for Feb. 11.

Defense lawyer Santha Sonenberg declined comment on whether Guandique would appeal the verdict. Prosecutors said they would issue a statement later in the day.

Guandique stared straight ahead as the verdict was read, and he shook his head as he left the courtroom. As he has throughout the trial, he wore a turtleneck that covered his gang tattoos,

Levy's mother squinted and took notes during the hearing, then craned her neck to observe Guandique's reaction to the reading of the verdict.

"It makes a difference to find the right person who is responsible for my daughter's death," she said afterward. While she was glad to have been at the hearing, she added: "I can certainly tell you, it ain't closure."

Prosecutors Amanda Haines and Fernando Campoamor-Sanchez obtained a conviction even though they had no eyewitnesses and no DNA evidence linking Guandique to Levy. And Guandique never confessed to police. Prosecutors hung their hopes in large part on a former cellmate of Guandique, Armando Morales, who testified that Guandique confided in him that he killed Levy.

Morales said Guandique was worried about being labeled a rapist by fellow inmates if word got out that he was a suspect in the Levy case. According to Morales, Guandique admitted killing Levy as part of an attempted robbery, but said he never raped her.

The government also presented testimony from two women who were attacked by Guandique in May and July

of 2001 in Rock Creek Park. In both cases, Guandique attacked the women from behind while they jogged on isolated trails but ran off after each woman fought him off.

Defense attorneys said Morales' testimony couldn't be trusted. They also pointed to DNA from an unknown male that was found on Levy's black running tights. The DNA matched neither Guandique nor Condit, and the defense said it was powerful evidence that the wrong person was on trial. Prosecutors argued the DNA was the result of contamination during the testing process.

The monthlong trial featured testimony from Condit himself, who denied any involvement in Levy's disappearance or death. But as he has for the past decade, he refused to

answer whether he had an affair with Levy, saying he was entitled to some privacy. Even though defense lawyers asked him several times on cross-examination, he refused to answer and the judge never required him to do so.

In their closing arguments, the defense indirectly pointed a finger at Condit, suggesting that he acted "like a guilty man" throughout the investigation by trying to cover up his affair with Levy and refusing to answer questions to a grand jury. Prosecutors said he was simply trying to protect his reputation.

Guandique, 29, listened to the entire proceedings through headphones providing a Spanish interpretation. His legs were shackled through the trial, though that was hidden from jurors' view.



**FILE --** In this April 22, 2009 file photo, Ingmar Guandique, 27, who is accused of killing Chandra Levy, is escorted from the Violent Crimes Unit by police in Washington. A jury has found Salvadoran immigrant Ingmar Guandique guilty of murdering Washington intern Chandra Levy back in 2001, when her disappearance became a national sensation.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin, File)



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# Family of Americans in Iran: Case taking too long



**FILE -** In this May 20, 2010 file photo, American hikers Shane Bauer, left, Sarah Shourd, center, and Josh Fattal, sit at the Esteghlal Hotel in Tehran, Iran. Iran has set a Feb. 6, 2011 trial date for three Americans arrested more than a year ago along the Iraqi border and charged with spying, their lawyer said Sunday, Nov. 21, 2010.

(AP Photo/Press TV, File)

By **PATRICK CONDON,**  
Associated Press

**MINNEAPOLIS** — Family members of the two Americans still held in Iran on espionage charges called the postponement of their trial until Feb. 6 an unwanted delay

and stressed they were not looking forward to spending a second holiday season without their loved ones.

“It’s unbearable for my parents. It’s unbearable for all our families, and it needs to end,” Alex Fattal said Monday.

His brother, Josh, along with Shane Bauer and Bauer’s fiancée, Sarah Shourd, were arrested by Iran near its border with Iraq in July 2009 and accused of espionage. Bauer and Fattal remain jailed in Tehran more than two months after Shourd was released on medical grounds.

Shourd and the families say the three were on an innocent hike, but Iran accuses them of espionage — and the case has become a point of confrontation in the troubled U.S.-Iran relationship. Masoud Shafiei, the Tehran-based attorney representing the Americans, said Sunday that he was notified of the Feb. 6 trial date — two weeks after a previous trial date of Nov. 6 was abandoned.

Bauer’s mother, Cindy Hickey, said family members don’t put much confidence in new trial dates since the case has seen so many delays. Hickey and Alex Fattal both said the families are particularly dreading the advent of another

holiday season without their loved ones.

“It’s taking a huge toll on everyone,” said Hickey, who lives near Pine City, Minn. She said her son’s younger sisters have both suffered recent health problems they believe are caused or exacerbated by stress.

Alex Fattal, a Ph.D. candidate in anthropology at Harvard University who put his studies on hold, said last Thanksgiving was for him one of the two worst days of his brother’s entire captivity. The other was the day last May when he learned the three prisoners would not be released to come home with their visiting mothers.

“I’m very much not looking forward to another Thanksgiving without them,” Fattal said. “We really hope a trial won’t be necessary and they’ll be released on humanitarian grounds. This truly has gone on far too long.” Sarah Shourd, who lives in the San Francisco area, did

not immediately return a request for comment made through a spokeswoman. Iranian officials had indicated the latest delay was because Shourd had not yet been summoned to return for a trial. Hickey, who speaks to Shourd daily, said Shourd hadn’t decided if she would return to Tehran for a trial if she is summoned at some point.

“We make our decisions moment by moment so until the moment arrives we haven’t come to a conclusion about that,” Hickey said.

Shourd’s mother, Nora Shourd, has had her own health problems since her daughter’s return. Nora Shourd underwent gall bladder surgery in late October but suffered what Hickey described as serious complications. She said Nora Shourd is still hospitalized almost four weeks later and still unable to eat on her own. “She’s still very concerned for Shane and Josh, of course, and that’s not helping her recovery,” Hickey said. □



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# Gibbs: Concerns over body scans will be considered

By JULIE PACE,  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With the Thanksgiving holiday travel gearing up, the White House said Monday the government will take into account the public's concerns and complaints as it evaluates rigid new airline boarding security checks.

President Barack Obama's spokesman, Robert Gibbs, said the government is "desperately" trying to balance procedures that maximize security and minimize invasiveness. He says the Transportation Security Administration procedures will continue to evolve.

"The evolution of the security will be done with the input of those who go through the security," Gibbs said.

Gibbs underscored that the president's highest priority during the holiday season, "is to ensure that when you or I or others get on to an airplane, that we can feel reasonably sure that we can travel safely." Air travelers are protesting new requirements at some U.S. airports that they must pass through full-body scanners that produce a virtually naked image. The screener, who sits in a different location, does not see the face of the person being screened and does not know the traveler's identity. Those who refuse to go through the scanners are subject to thorough pat-downs that include agency officials touching the clothed genital areas of passengers.

Earlier Monday, Transportation Security Administration chief John Pistole urged passengers

angry over safety procedures not to boycott airport body scans.

He said he understands public concerns about privacy in the wake of the tough new security checks, but said that a relatively small proportion of the 34 million people who have flown since the new procedures went into effect have had body pat downs.

With the Thanksgiving travel rush less than 48 hours away, Pistole implored passengers Monday not to take delaying actions or engage in boycotts of body scans, actions he said would only serve to "tie up people who want to go home and see their loved ones."

Pistole had pledged Sunday to review security procedures in the wake of a public outcry. But he also said the TSA must balance people's demand for privacy with the need to protect passengers from those who would try to set off bombs on planes.

A loosely-organized Internet boycott of body scans is under way, and Pistole said he hoped people would exercise sound judgment over the busy Thanksgiving holiday. A National Opt-Out Day is scheduled for Wednesday to coincide with the busiest travel day of the year.

"Just one or two recalcitrant passengers at an airport is all it takes to cause huge delays," said Paul Ruden, a spokesman for the American Society of Travel Agents, which has warned its more than 8,000 members about delays resulting from the body-scanner boycott. "It doesn't take much to mess things up anyway — especially if

someone purposely tries to mess it up."

Body scans take as little as 10 seconds, but people who decline the process must submit to a full pat-down, which takes much longer. That could cause a cascade of delays at dozens of major airports, including those in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and Atlanta.

Pistole noted the alleged attempt by a Nigerian with explosives in his underwear to try to bring down an Amsterdam-to-Detroit flight last Christmas. "We all wish we lived in a world where security procedures at airports weren't necessary," he said, "but that just isn't the case."

The statement came just hours after Pistole, in a TV interview, said that while the full-body scans and pat-downs could be intrusive and uncomfortable, the high threat level required their use.

In the Sunday TV appearance, Pistole appeared to shrug off statements by Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton that the TSA would look for ways to alter screening techniques that some passengers say are invasions of privacy.

Obama said in Lisbon on Saturday that he had asked TSA officials whether there's a less intrusive way to ensure travel safety. "I understand people's frustrations," he said, adding that he had told the TSA that "you have to constantly refine and measure whether what we're doing is the only way to assure the American people's safety."

Clinton, appearing Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press,"



**A Transportation Security Administration screener talks to a man before giving him a physical pat-down at LaGuardia Airport in New York November 22, 2010. U.S. authorities will reconsider airline passenger screening procedures that have caused a public uproar on the eve of the busy holiday travel season, the top transport security official said on Monday.**

said she thought "everyone, including our security experts, are looking for ways to diminish the impact on the traveling public" and that "striking the right balance is what this is about."

She, for one, wouldn't like to submit to a security pat-down. "Not if I could avoid it. No. I mean, who would?" Clinton told CBS' "Face the Nation." "Clearly it's invasive, it's not comfortable," Pistole said of the scans and pat-downs during the interview on

CNN's "State of the Union." But, he added, "if we are to detect terrorists, who have again proven innovative and creative in their design and implementation of bombs that are going to blow up airplanes and kill people, then we have to do something that prevents that."

Rep. John Mica, R-Fla., who is set to become Transportation Committee chairman when Republicans take over the House in January, differed with the approach. □

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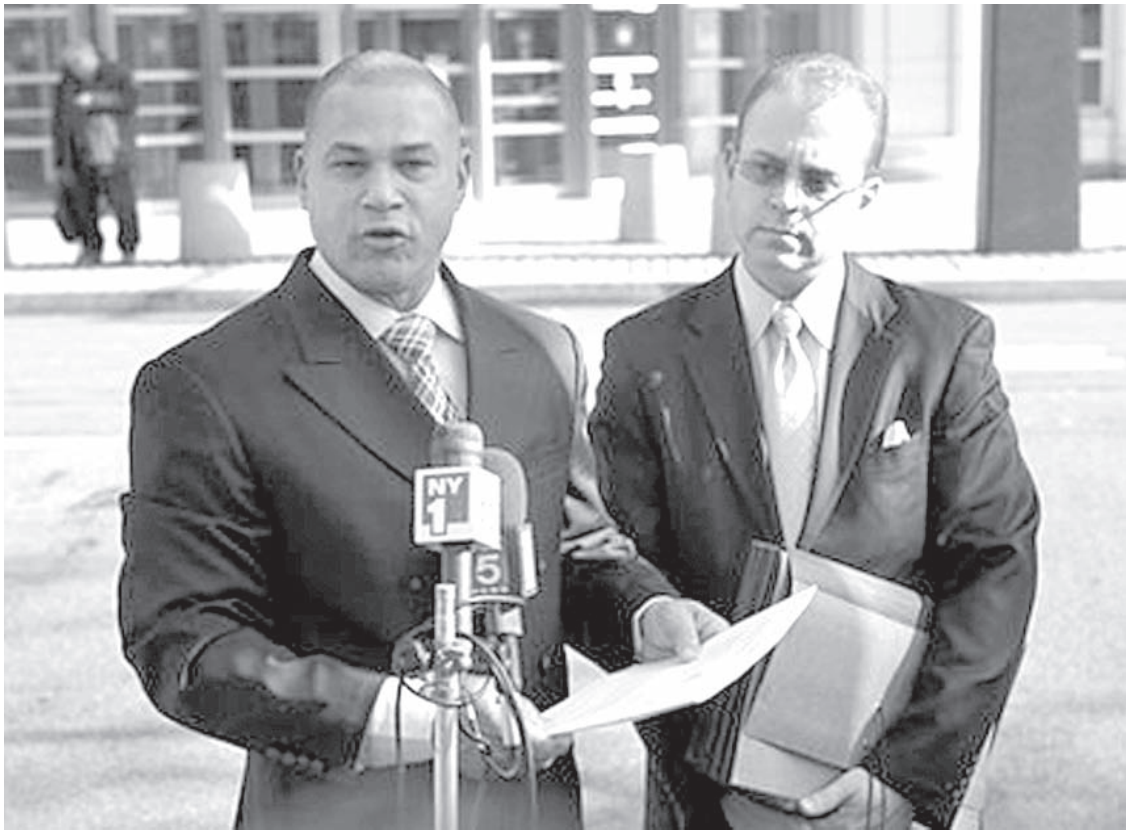
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# Hate crime victim's estate sues NY authorities



NEW YORK — The estate of an Ecuadorean immigrant filed a \$40 million civil rights lawsuit Monday that blames police inaction over prior violence for the man's stabbing death during a confrontation with a mob of teens who had made a sport of targeting Hispanics. The lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court in Brooklyn against county and municipal governments and numerous officials who work for them.

Marcelo Lucero, a 37-year-old dry cleaning worker, was walking with a friend near the Patchogue Long Island Rail Road station around midnight in November 2008 when a group of seven teenagers confronted them. During the ensuing brawl, Lucero and his friend were peppered with ethnic slurs and one of the teens fatally stabbed Lucero in the chest.

The killing focused attention

on Suffolk County, which has seen an influx of immigrants from Central and South America in the past decade, and prompted a U.S. Justice Department investigation into the way police respond to bias attacks in the community. The Southern Poverty Law Center also has documented repeated attacks on Hispanics there since 2000. The seven teens were convicted of hate crime-related charges. The teen who

actually stabbed Lucero was convicted of manslaughter and was given a 25-year sentence; the others are serving lesser sentences. Most of the seven also admitted participating in prior attacks on Hispanics, including two earlier on the day Lucero was killed.

Fernando Mateo, leader of Hispanics Across America and a spokesman for the Lucero family, said police and political inaction contributed to an atmosphere where the teens felt they could attack immigrants with impunity.

"A lot of these kids felt they were supported by legislators, by law enforcement officers, that what they were doing was really just a joke," Mateo said. "It was a joke for these kids. It was play time."

The defendants are Suffolk County and its police department, the town of Brookhaven and its public safety department, the village of Patchogue and its public safety and code enforcement department, and 10 "unknown police officers."

Suffolk County and Patchogue officials did not immediately return calls seeking comment on Monday. A Brookhaven spokesman said he was

consulting with the town's legal department.

The lawsuit notes that as far back as 2000, two Mexican day laborers were nearly beaten to death by a pair of white teenagers in nearby Farmingville. Three years later, teens burned a home inhabited by Hispanics to the ground after tossing fireworks through a window on the Fourth of July.

Advocates also have claimed harsh anti-immigration rhetoric by Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy and others created an inflammatory climate. "When the leaders are engaging in hate language, what do you expect impressionable teenagers to do?" asked Kevin Faga, the attorney for Lucero's estate.

Levy, who made an unsuccessful bid for governor this year, has adamantly rejected those allegations. The county police department has also taken steps, including assigning Spanish-speaking officers to the community, to address criticisms.

Besides the federal lawsuit, the Lucero estate also has filed a lawsuit in state court against the families of the seven assailants. □

## 88-year-old man jailed after nursing home shooting

SEAL BEACH, Calif. — An 86-year-old woman was found dead of a gunshot wound to the head in her bed at a Southern California nursing home Sunday, and her husband of nearly seven decades was found sitting next to her and arrested on suspicion of murder, police said.

The couple's daughter told the Los Angeles Times the shooting a month before their 70th anniversary was "a mercy killing" by a husband who had long fed and bathed his wife as she suffered from dementia and decline.

Reports of gunshots at Country Villa Healthcare Center came at about noon, and within a few minutes officers arrived from the California Highway

Patrol, Orange County Sheriff's Department and three local police departments, Seal Beach police Sgt. Steve Bowles said.

A tactical team surrounded the facility and soon entered. Inside they found Clara Laird dead of a single gunshot wound to the head, and found her husband Roy Charles Laird in a nearby chair, Bowles said. Officers recovered a .38 caliber revolver from Roy Laird.

"It was in his pocket," Bowles said, and added Laird gave no trouble to officers who arrested him.

Laird was being held at Seal Beach jail Sunday night.

The scene at the nursing home was "chaotic" on a weekend

afternoon with many visitors in addition to patients and staff, Bowles said.

Bowles could offer no information on the motive or health of the couple, nor say whether any trouble had been reported between them.

The couple's daughter, Kathy Palmateer, 68, told Times that Roy Laird had insisted on helping dress and feed his wife as dementia took hold.

He reluctantly agreed three months ago to check her into Country Villa — near their home in the retirement community of Leisure World — after she took a bad turn and was unable to walk, sit up in a wheelchair, feed herself or recognize many of those around her.



Seal Beach police Officer Ryan Corbin, left, and Detective Joe Hardin leave Country Villa Seal Beach Healthcare Center, Sunday, Nov. 21, 2010, after investigating the death of an 86 year-old woman who was allegedly shot to death by her 88 year-old husband, in Seal Beach, Calif.

(AP Photo)

"Her mind was gone," Palmateer told the Times as she waited outside the police station to see her father. "It was a mercy killing."

Palmateer briefly met and talked to her father, the

newspaper said, and discussed his getting a lawyer and getting his medications in jail, she said.

Bowles said prosecutors would decide on charges this week. □



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The Duval-Leroy Brut is a big, full-bodied champagne, featuring graphite, toast, lemon and nut aromas and flavors; it is balanced with an assertive finish. For the upcoming holiday season, Duval-Leroy's elegant, bubbly Pinot Noir and Chardonnay creations are options which should surely be kept in mind.

*Continued on Page A11*

## Brazil's Paula and Flavia win Ladies Doubles

# Mingosi & Matteo win International Beach Tennis Event

HADICURARI - Italy's world champions Alex Mingosi and Matteo Marigella defeated Brazil's Guy Prata and Vini Font in a sizzling, exciting final yesterday, hereby again winning the coveted title of champions of the Marriott Stellaris Beach Tennis Event 2010. The tournament's Ladies final was an all-Brazilian affair: Paula Cortez and Flavia

Muniz defeated Joanna Cortez and Samantha Barridjan. Earlier in the afternoon Aruba's Marieke Buuts and Margo van Doorn played a great semi-final against the winners, but the cheers and applause from the fans could not help them win.

Italy may have won the title, but the Brazilian group of 90 players were all over the place, playing terrific matches in all categories.

Even though Brazil has only taken up beach tennis two years ago, the sport has taken a giant flight and the level of play is amazingly high.

The Marriott Stellaris Beach Tennis Event delighted a super amount of participants and fans: at time you could hardly move through the crowd at MooMba Beach. Although the weather threatened to rain on the parade, no downpours or drawn-out rain showers dampened the spirits.

It was a fantastic weekend, once again. □





*Exhibition DOMESTIC HARMONY*

# Well-known artist Mo Mohamed exhibits in the Westin Aruba Art Gallery



PALM BEACH - Mo is a self taught artist who was born in Aruba in 1944. His artworks are described as being “mystically

decorative”. Mo is always working; his passion for painting started at a very young age when he realized that he wanted to practice the art of painting. After his studies and numerous odd jobs in The Netherlands he decided to paint fulltime as a professional. Mo has been practicing art for more than 40 years now.

Mo: “I’m at God’s art academy, that’s why I’m always learning.”

Inspiration for DOMESTIC HARMONY is: “The partition of so many promises that were made to keep relationships going with love and peace”

The opening of this exhibition is on Saturday, November the 27th at 8PM and you are welcome. The



artworks are on display till the 5th of January 2011, in the Westin Aruba Art Gallery, which is open and freely accessible every day of the week. □



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# It's Raining Cash at Cool Canino



PALM BEACH - What winners at Cool Casino do Divi Phoenix guests Jose Tamayo and Michael Ortensio have in common? Both are recent jackpot winners where Jose collected \$8,000 on the Cool Cash bank of slot machines and Michael walked away with \$4,320 which he won on the Conquistador carousel. Casino hostess Julissa Maduro reports both strolled in for a bit of gaming on a



rainy afternoon and were rewarded with fat jackpots. Cool Casino is a popular spot, and for a good reason. The casino hosts a number of weekly events which attract many locals and visitors. This coming Wednesday, Ladies Night, the casino will be hosting a local TV show with all the lights and the action of a grand production, while offering live music with one of Aruba's most popular bands. Make sure you're there, it might be raining cash for you too! ☐

## Aqua Grill... "the hip restaurant that is heaven on earth for seafood lovers," *Fodor's Travel Guide*

Among the island's many fine restaurants, Aqua Grill is the premier seafood sensation. Excitingly prepared in an open-view kitchen, fresh local catches join delicacies from waters abroad, including live Maine lobster, Norwegian salmon, sashimi tuna, and Alaskan king crab, along with a selection of non-seafood dishes.

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can also be prepared wood-grilled, broiled, poached, steamed, or pan-fried upon request. Complimenting the menu is the island's largest raw bar and a generous wine list of over one hundred selections.

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*Celebrating love with marriage on Aruba*

# Amber & James exchange vows & rings



PALM BEACH – Hyatt guests Amber Waters & James Fallon celebrated their love for one another with the exchange of wedding rings symbolizing a circle with no ending and vows of love for one another forever and ever. The celebration was officiated by Rev. John and coordinated by Indira Maduro of Aruba Fairy Tales on the beach at the Divi Pheonix Beach resort for an intimate ceremony with family and friends.

After the exchange of rings, vows and lots of first kisses as husband and wife, Amber & James continued with a fabulous cocktail party, a romantic photo shoot, then an exquisite dinner and champagne toast followed by dancing at the Divi's Pure Beach.

The evening was perfectly orchestrated for the couple, their family and friends. The evening ended with the cutting of the cake ceremony and dancing till the end of the



evening. Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. James and Amber Fallon from Aruba Fairy Tales and Aruba Today. ☐ ~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~







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*Aruba Marriott Celebrates Thanksgiving Day*

# Spend Thanksgiving With Family and Friends

*Thanksgiving NFL games start at 1:20 PM*



PALM BEACH – On November 25th, the Aruba Marriott invites you for a Thanksgiving celebration in their restaurants.

La Vista restaurant offers a sumptuous Thanksgiving dinner buffet from 5:30 pm until 10:30 pm. An extensive variety of food selections will be offered, including the roasted turkey with sage dressing and giblet gravy, pumpkin bisque soup, candied sweet potatoes and more. The traditional carving station offers prime rib and honey glazed ham.

## Duval-Leroy champagne blends harmony with seduction in a bottle

*Continued from Page A7*

Introducing the delicacy of its bubbles to this island, a champagne reception is held exclusively for restaurant and F & B managers as well as for the general managers of various hotels and restaurants at Barefoot Restaurant at Surfside Beach. To enhance the pleasurable experience a number of super hors d'oeuvres will be served, like grouper with a pinch of curry, scallops with a drop of lemon, tomato and mozzarella, carpaccio on toast, tuna tartar on toast and ham and melon. Frenchman Michel Brismortier is on the island for this introduction of Duval-Leroy champagnes; he has a life to be envious about. He is working for one of the finest champagne houses in the Champagne region in France and he travels the world promoting this elegant, sparkling, fizzing and bubbling liquid, which is made from Pinot Noir and Chardonnay grapes. Michel will be present during the invitational cocktail reception at Barefoot Restaurant at Surfside Beach, which is hosted by Govert van der Hout of the Arion Wine Company, proud new representative of Duval-Leroy champagnes.

Monsieur Brismortier will talk about the process of champagne making, among other things. He is no novice in that area, as he virtually grew up in the vineyards and has worked for Duval-Leroy for more than twenty years. Actually, he was even baptized with a spoon of champagne, an age-old

tradition in the Champagne region. Michel's roots go back to generations of grape growers and wine makers. His grandfather created the first business public relations center, where traders had to come to buy.

A bit more about Duval-Leroy, which got its name from the merger of two champagne growers in 1859. President is Carol Duval-Leroy, who has a passion for the profession of wine making and her company. Today's company is still based in its original village, called Vertus; Vertus is, of course, located in the Champagne region of France. It is still an independently owned 'maison', something quite rare in the Champagne region nowadays. By law champagne may not be called champagne if it does not hail from the Champagne region; then it is called sparkling wine. Five hundred hectares of cultivated vineyards make Vertus the largest wine growing district in the Champagne region, after Les Riceys. The village, with its population of 2,500 inhabitants, has a quite eventful yet awful history: although it was an importance center in the Middle Ages, it was totally destroyed twice: once in the Hundred Years' War and again during World War II. Today, however, Vertus is enjoying its status as one of the top Premier Cru rated areas in the Champagne.

For the Arion Wine Company it is a great honor to have a top rated champagne like Duval-Leroy in its portfolio. Prosit! ☐



In addition, home made pizza fresh from the oven and mouth watering desserts await you. The Thanksgiving buffet at La Vista can be enjoyed by everyone with kids between 6 till 12 years eat for half of the price and kids under 5 years eat free. Seating is based on a first come, first serve at La Vista.

For the America Football fans Champions Sports Bar & Restaurant presents the Thanksgiving NFL games on 32 TV screens and 2 big screens on November 25th. The sports bar broadcasts the games from 1:20 pm with New England vs. Detroit Lions, New Orleans Saints

vs. Dallas Cowboy at 5:10 pm and Cincinnati Bengals vs. New York Jets at 9:20 pm.

During the games, Champions offers a complete Thanksgiving meal including roasted turkey with giblet gravy, sage stuffing, cranberry sauce, brown butter green beans, mashed potatoes and fresh rolls or butter. This menu is available from 1:00 pm until 9:00 pm.

La Vista is located at the Aruba Marriott Resort. You can find Champions Sports Bar & Restaurant is located at the Marriott Aruba Ocean Club. The Aruba Marriott wishes everyone a happy Thanksgiving. ☐



# Holocaust-denying bishop threatened with expulsion



In this Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2009 file photo, Catholic Bishop Richard Williamson, second from left in foreground, is escorted out of Heathrow airport by police and security officers after arriving on a flight from Argentina, in London.

NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — A Catholic bishop who denied the Holocaust is facing expulsion from his traditionalist order for hiring a lawyer linked to the neo-Nazi movement.

The Society of St. Pius X said it ordered Bishop Richard Williamson to fire the lawyer, who was to represent him in an appeal next week of a German incitement conviction for saying in a TV interview that he didn't believe Jews were gassed during World War II. The interview aired the same day Pope Benedict XVI lifted Williamson's excommunication, unleashing a torrent of criticism and threatening the Vatican's relations with Jews.

The Regensburg, Germany court where Williamson is appealing his conviction told the DAPD news agency that he would be represented by Wolfram Nahrath, who has defended neo-Nazis in the past.

The Network Against Nazis group says Nahrath is a former leader of a German neo-Nazi group known as the Wiking-Jugend, or Viking Youth, and says he is currently active in another far-right extremist youth group.

Williamson was convicted in April and fined €10,000 (\$13,000) for his Jan. 21, 2009, comments in an interview in Germany with Swedish television.

The lifting of Williamson's

*Associated Press* excommunication created a major embarrassment for the German-born Benedict, outraging bishops around the world and in Benedict's native Germany. Even Chancellor

## CAMBODIA

*Continued from Front Page*

Ambulances raced back and forth between the river and the hospitals for several hours after the stampede. Calmette Hospital, the capital's main medical facility, was filled to capacity with bodies as well as patients, some of whom had to be treated in hallways. Many of the injured appeared to be badly hurt, raising the prospect that the death toll could rise as local hospitals became overwhelmed.

Hours after the chaos, the dead and injured were still being taken away from the scene, while searchers looked for bodies of anyone who might have drowned. An Associated Press reporter saw one body floating in the river, and hundreds of shoes left behind on and around the bridge.

Prime Minister Hun Sen, in his third post-midnight live television broadcast, said that 339 people had been killed and 329 injured. He described the chaos as the biggest tragedy to strike his country since the communist rule of the Khmer Rouge, whose radical policies are blamed for the deaths of 1.7 million people during the 1970s.

He ordered an investigation into the cause of the stampede and declared Thursday would be a national day of mourning. Government ministries were ordered to fly the flag at half-staff. Authorities had estimated that upward of 2 million people would descend on Phnom Penh for the three-day water festival, which marks the end of the rainy season and whose main attraction is traditional boat races along the river.

The last race ended early Monday evening, the last night of the holiday, and the panic started later on Koh Pich — Diamond Island — a long spit of land wedged in a fork in the river where a concert was being held.

It was unclear how many people were on the island to celebrate the holiday, though the area appeared to be packed with people, as were the banks.

Soft drink vendor So Cheata said the trouble began when about 10 people fell unconscious in the press of the crowd. She said that set off a panic, which then turned into a stampede, with many people caught underfoot.

Information Minister Khieu Kanharith gave a similar account of the cause.

Seeking to escape the island, part of the crowd pushed onto a

mission as a Catholic bishop serving in the Society of St. Pius X."

He warned that Williamson would be expelled from the society if he disobeyed the order.

Williamson didn't immediately respond to an e-mail seeking comment.

The late Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre founded the Swiss-based society in 1969, opposed to Vatican II's reforms, which revolutionized the church's relations with Jews and allowed for the celebration of Mass in the vernacular rather than in Latin.

In 1988, the Vatican excommunicated Lefebvre, Williamson and three other bishops after Lefebvre consecrated them without papal consent.

Benedict has worked for two decades to bring the group

back into the Vatican's fold. In 2007, he relaxed restrictions on celebrating the old Latin Mass, which the traditionalists had demanded. And in January 2009 he accepted another one of their demands by approving a decree lifting their excommunications.

In the new book, Benedict said the timing of the Williamson broadcast showed there was hostility to the church at play. It had been conducted in November 2008 but was aired on the day the decree lifting the excommunications was dated.

"On our side it was a mistake not to have studied and prepared the case more carefully," Benedict said. "On the other hand, though, there was precisely, shall we say, a readiness for aggression, which was lying in wait for its victim." □



An injured Cambodian is carried by police and other visitors after a stampede onto a bridge at an accident site during the last day of celebrations of the water festival in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Monday, Nov. 22, 2010. Thousands of people celebrating a water festival on a small island in a Cambodian river stampeded Monday evening, killing many people, a hospital official said. Hundreds more were hurt as the crowd panicked and pushed over the bridge to the mainland.

*Associated Press*

bridge, which also jammed up, with people falling under others and into the water. So Cheata said hundreds of hurt people lay on the ground afterward. Many appeared to be unconscious.

Philip Heijmans, a 27-year-old photographer from Brooklyn, N.Y., who arrived at the scene half-an-hour after the stampede, walked up the bridge to see hundreds of shoes and pieces of clothing, then a body, then more "bodies stacked on bodies."

He counted about 40 in all, with about 200 rescuers in the area. Some Australian firefighters were on the scene — it wasn't clear why they were in town — who were checking pulses before loading bodies into vans.

Cambodia is one of the region's poorer countries, and has an underdeveloped health system, with hospitals barely able to cope with daily medical demands.

Koh Pich used to host a slum community, but in recent years the poor have been evicted to make way for high-rise and commercial development, most yet to be realized. □





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# Irish premier faces early election over EU bailout

SHAWN POGATCHNIK

Associated Press

DUBLIN (AP) — The Irish government lost its power base Monday, a day after being forced to accept a massive bailout from the European Union and the IMF. Irish Prime Minister Brian Cowen said he would call an early election next year once Ireland passes an emergency budget and finalizes the bailout.

The admission represented a huge political blow to Cowen, who only days ago was denying even the need for a bailout to solve the problems brought on by Irish banks' reckless speculation in overpriced real estate.

His coalition partner, the Green Party, forced his hand, saying it would quit the government and then demand an early election in January. Cowen resisted pressure to resign immediately but soon even lawmakers in Cowen's own Fianna Fail party also called on him to go.

But Cowen said he couldn't quit now because that would delay Ireland's deficit-slashing 2011 budget and the bailout negotiations — and jeopardize efforts to sustain the nation's cash-strapped banks.

He insisted he would step down and face re-election only once Ireland's most brutal budget in history is passed and ongoing negotiations with the International Monetary Fund and the European Central Bank produce a bailout deal expected to approach €100 billion (\$135 billion).

Analysts say Cowen faces an uphill struggle even to clear the first hurdle of the 2011 budget when it faces an initial vote after its unveiling Dec. 7. Ireland's rescue, which

follows a Greek bailout in May, is the European Union's latest attempt to win back market confidence and keep its 16-nation euro currency strong and stable.

But the cost — both monetary and political — keeps rising by the day.

Experts said Monday it would do little to shield other heavily indebted countries from the risk of eventual default, most immediately Portugal but also potentially Spain, Italy and Greece.

Cowen said he would call an election once the budget is fully passed but declined to specify any date. Several budget votes aren't expected until late January or February, which under Cowen's terms would mean an election in March — long after analysts expect him to be forced from office.

Cowen said Ireland can't afford a three-week delay for a national election now.

"Any further delay in this matter would in fact weaken our country's position," Cowen said on the steps of his Government Buildings office, senior Cabinet ministers flanking him.

"The most important issue is the passing of this budget on the 7th of December," he said. "Not to proceed with it would do grave damage to our interests."

One Fianna Fail lawmaker, Chris Andrews, said Cowen was a failed communicator who "no longer has the confidence of the people right across the country. We must put the country first."

"The people do not trust him and do not believe what he has to say. His credibility is in tatters now," said another, Noel O'Flynn. □

Irish Prime Minister Brian Cowen, reacts during a press conference at government buildings, Dublin, Ireland, Monday, Nov. 22, 2010. Cowen declared Monday he won't resign now despite pressure within his own unraveling government, because he's determined to pass an emergency budget and negotiate a massive EU-IMF bailout before he goes.

Associated Press



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# AP Exclusive: Troubles stop Iran nuclear enrichment



Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad delivers a speech in a public gathering at the city of Bojnord, northeastern Iran, Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2010. Iran's president said Wednesday that upcoming talks with six world powers about its disputed nuclear program will fail if those nations continue along what he called a "path of arrogance."

**GEORGE JAHN**

**Associated Press**

VIENNA (AP) — Iran's nuclear program has suffered a recent setback, with major technical problems forcing the temporary shutdown of thousands of centrifuges enriching uranium, diplomats told The Associated Press. The diplomats said Monday they had no specifics on the

*Associated Press* nature of the problem that in recent months led Iranian experts to briefly power down the machines they use for enrichment — a nuclear technology that has both civilian and military uses. But suspicions focused on the Stuxnet worm, the computer virus thought to be aimed at Iran's nuclear program, which experts last week identified as being calibrated to destroy

centrifuges by sending them spinning out of control. Iran says its enrichment efforts are geared only to make nuclear fuel but the program has aroused international concern because it can be re-engineered to produce uranium for nuclear warheads.

There have been hints that the program is beset by technical problems. Even a brief shutdown of the thousands of enriching machines would be the strongest documentation to date that the program — Iran's nuclear cornerstone and a source of national pride — is in trouble.

The country has continued to enrich despite increasingly strict U.N. sanctions imposed in reaction to its nuclear defiance and has stockpiled enough material for more than two nuclear bombs should it choose to turn it into weapons-grade uranium.

Unease has been fed by Tehran's refusal to accept nuclear fuel from abroad, the covert origins of its enrichment activities and stonewalling of efforts by the International Atomic Energy Agency to probe allegations that it tried to develop components of a nuclear weapons program. Since being revealed eight years ago, Iran has expanded its enrichment activities to the point where it now runs about 8,500 centrifuges at Natanz, in central Iran. But after initial rapid growth, Iranian enrichment capacity has stagnated in recent years. Tehran has taken hundreds of centrifuges off line over the past 18 months, prompting speculation of technical problems.

A U.N. official close to the IAEA said a complete stop in Iran's centrifuge operation would be unprecedented to his knowledge but declined to discuss specifics. He, like two senior diplomats from IAEA member

countries who told the AP of the incident at Natanz, asked for anonymity because the information was confidential.

The three officials spoke on the eve of the planned release of a confidential IAEA update on Iran — the latest report by the Vienna-based agency to its 35-nation board on its attempts to get an overview of Tehran's nuclear activities. The diplomats said it would again focus on Tehran's refusal to heed U.N. Security Council demands to stop enrichment.

That report will come less than three weeks before planned talks between Iran and the world's five powers — the U.S., Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany — designed to reduce concerns about Tehran's nuclear agenda.

Iran's enrichment program has come under renewed focus with the conclusion of cyber experts and analysts that the Stuxnet worm that infected Iran's nuclear program was designed to abruptly change the rotational speeds of motors such as ones used in centrifuges. Such sudden changes can crash centrifuges and damage them beyond repair.

No one has claimed to be behind Stuxnet, but some analysts have speculated that it originated in Israel. The worm "specifically controls frequency converter drives" that normally run between 807 Herz and 1210 Herz, researcher Eric Chien of the computer security company Symantec, said in an e-mail to the AP. "These are subsequently changed to run at 1410Hz, then 2Hz, and then 1064Hz."

Iran nuclear expert David Albright said it was impossible to say what would cause a disruption strong enough to idle the centrifuges but "Stuxnet would do just that.

"It would send (centrifuge) speeds up and then suddenly drop them," said Albright of the Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security, which has tracked Iran for signs of covert proliferation. Albright and a colleague, Andrea Stricker, last week released a study applying Chien's finding to centrifuges. He said the worm appeared capable of pushing centrifuge speeds above their normal speeds, up to 1,410 Herz, or cycles per second, and then suddenly dropping speeds to 2 cycles per second, disrupting their operations and destroying some in the process.

Separately, another official from an IAEA member country suggested the worm could cause further damage to Iran's nuclear program.

The official also asked for anonymity because his information was privileged. He cited a Western intelligence report suggesting that Stuxnet had infected the control system of Iran's Bushehr reactor and would be activated once the Russian-built reactor goes on line in a few months. Stuxnet would interfere with control of "basic parameters" such as temperature and pressure control and neutron flow, that could result in the meltdown of the reactor, raising the specter of a possible explosion, he said. There was no independent confirmation. But nuclear experts have suggested that the worm's pervasive invasion of Iran's nuclear program could result in a series of problems.

Commenting on Stuxnet Monday, Olli Heinonen, the IAEA's former point man on Iran, told a Washington audience that the virus could have infected control systems at Bushehr "or elsewhere."

"It may cause a lot of havoc," he said. □

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# Bolivian leader lectures Gates about U.S. behavior

ANNE GEARAN

AP National Security Writer

SANTA CRUZ, Bolivia (AP) — Bolivian President Evo Morales had a blunt message for the visiting U.S. Pentagon chief on Monday: Latin American nations will pick their own friends and business partners, including Iran, regardless of U.S. opinion.

The colorful leftist leader delivered an hourlong welcome to delegates at a regional defense conference that included U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates. Morales never mentioned Gates by name. But most of the speech, and all of the applause lines, were clearly directed at the Pentagon chief and former head of the CIA.

Bolivia is more democratic and representative than the United States, Morales said, and democracy would improve in the entire region if the United States stopped interfering. Bolivia receives \$70 million in U.S. aid annually, much of it for popular nutrition and health programs.

He mentioned the spread of Iranian and Russian business

and other ties in Latin America, and said it is not the U.S. place to complain.

"Bolivia under my government will have an agreement, an alliance, to anyone in the world," Morales said. "Nobody will forbid us," he said to applause. Morales has allied Bolivia with Venezuela, Cuba and Iran, and drawn criticism from the U.S. for the Tehran ties. Last month Bolivia said it is interested in buying Iranian-made airplanes and helicopters for military training and transportation. Bolivia also wants to team up with Iran to build a nuclear power plant and establish a joint development bank. Venezuela is teaming with Russia on a civilian nuclear plant. Gates didn't seem fazed by the one-hour monologue. A day earlier he had warned that countries doing business with Iran should remember that Iran is under international sanctions over its nuclear program. He also questioned whether Iran has the technical capability to help another nations develop civilian nuclear power.

"As a sovereign state

Bolivia obviously can have relationships with any country in the world that it wishes to," Gates said Sunday. "I think Bolivia needs to be mindful of the number of United Nations Security Council resolutions that have been passed with respect to Iran's behavior."

Gates addressed the defense ministers' forum later Monday. His remarks were brief and focused on cooperation across the Western Hemisphere. He did not mention Morales or the wider current on anti-Americanism among some Latin American nations.

"Let us not lose sight of our shared dreams and common aspirations of a free, prosperous and secure Americas," Gates said.

The popular Morales, an ethnic Aymara and former coca-growers' union leader, was first elected in December 2005 and recently declared that he intends to run again in 2014. His closest ally is the even more fiercely anti-U.S. leader of Venezuela, Hugo Chavez. Morales ticked off a history of attempted coups, alleged election- and vote-tampering,



US Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, center, attends the opening of the Ninth Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas (CDMA) in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, Monday Nov. 22, 2010.

Associated Press

military meddling and vague conspiracies involving the United States. Some of it is based in truth, although the U.S. denies that a former ambassador tried to engineer a coup against Morales in 2008, as he alleged Monday.

Morales kicked out the then-U.S. ambassador in 2008, and the two nations have not normalized diplomatic relations since. Morales also expelled the U.S. DEA on suspicion of espionage.

He denies that coca grown in Bolivia feeds the worldwide

demand for cocaine, although the country produces vastly more of the crop that would be needed for its traditional and legal medicinal use in Bolivia. Morales also alleged U.S. involvement in coup attempts or political upheaval in Venezuela in 2002, Honduras in 2009 and Ecuador in 2010.

"The empire of the United States won," in Honduras, Morales said, a reference to the allegations of former Honduran President Manuel Zelaya that the U.S. was behind his ouster.

"The people of the Americas in Venezuela, Bolivia and Ecuador, we won," Morales continued. "We are three to one with the United States. Let's see what the future brings." U.S. officials have repeatedly denied involvement in all of those cases and critics of the United States have produced no clear evidence. □

## Big drug arrest on Caribbean cruise ship

BEN FOX

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — A suburban body shop owner accused of helping to run one of the largest drug smuggling organizations in the Caribbean was arrested Monday as he took a family vacation on a cruise ship.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents had been tracking Jorge Luis Figueroa Agosto as part of an investigation into the organization allegedly led by his older brother, Jose Figueroa Agosto, the so-called "Pablo Escobar of the Caribbean," who was captured in July in Puerto Rico after an intensive manhunt.

Federal agents fanned out across Puerto Rico on Monday seeking to arrest 17 alleged members of the organization. But Luis Figueroa had boarded the Caribbean Princess with his wife, two children and in-laws before the operation

began.

Agents waiting on board the ship arrested him without incident before the ship reached its first port-of-call in the U.S. Virgin Islands, said John Morton, director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Authorities simultaneously arrested 11 others sought in a federal indictment and the rest were being sought.

Morton said it was a major blow to an organization that transported large amounts of South American cocaine in luxury boats from the Dominican Republic to Puerto Rico, where other groups sold it locally or shipped it on to the U.S. mainland through airport couriers and shipping containers. "There are other drug trafficking organizations but this is one of the biggest," Morton said. The arrest of the elder brother had been a law enforcement coup. Jose Figueroa, 45, had escaped

prison in his native Puerto Rico and was the Dominican Republic's most wanted man for a decade. He pulled off several narrow escapes and taunted police over the radio. Like Escobar, the 1980s drug kingpin of Colombia, he became rich, owning a fleet of luxury cars and a ranch with a private zoo.

His younger brother, who officials said is about 40, was not well known. He lived an apparently law-abiding existence in Bayamon, near San Juan, as the owner of a body shop with no other known criminal offenses, said Roberto Escobar Vargas, special agent in charge of ICE investigations in Puerto Rico. But authorities said he and his brother were at the top of the organization.

Jorge Luis Figueroa was expected to be transferred back to Puerto Rico later Monday for arraignment. He had not yet hired an attorney

or entered a plea.

The others charged along with him are accused of a variety of roles in the organization, including shipping drugs and laundering profits through real estate and other business deals. □

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# U.S. envoy says six-party talks won't resume



U.S. nuclear envoy Stephen Bosworth answers a reporter's question during a press conference in Tokyo, Tuesday morning, Nov. 23, 2010.

*Associated Press*

**SHINO YUASA**

**Associated Press**

**TOKYO (AP)**— Talks among six nations to get North Korea to abandon its nuclear programs in return for aid and other concessions won't resume while Pyongyang works on a new uranium enrichment facility, a U.S. envoy said Tuesday.

The new facility came to light over the weekend after North Korea showed it to a visiting American nuclear scientist, claiming that the highly sophisticated operation had 2,000 completed centrifuges. Top U.S. military officials warn that it could speed the North's ability to make and deliver viable nuclear weapons.

The U.S. special envoy on North Korea, Stephen Bosworth, ruled out any resumption of the stalled six-party talks among the U.S., China, Russia, Japan, South Korea and North Korea while that program continues. The talks were started in 2003 in efforts to coax Pyongyang to give up its nuclear ambitions.

"Needless to say, we regard this development with great seriousness," he told reporters at a Tokyo hotel. "We do not contemplate resuming negotiations while active programs are under way or while there is a possibility that North Koreans would test another nuclear device or test a missile."

Bosworth met in Tokyo with Japanese Foreign

Minister Seiji Maehara during the second stop of an Asian tour that also included South Korea. He was scheduled to fly later Tuesday to China.

"We are consulting with our partners in the six-party process," Bosworth said. "We are committed to moving forward in very close coordination with our partners, particularly of course with our allies, the government of Japan and the government of South Korea."

American scientist Siegfried Hecker reported over the weekend that during a recent trip to the North's main Yongbyon atomic complex, he was taken to a small, industrial-scale uranium enrichment facility.

Hecker, a former director of the U.S. Los Alamos National Laboratory who is regularly given glimpses of the North's secretive nuclear program, said the North Korean program had been built in secret and with remarkable speed. In Washington, officials said Monday the facility could be nothing more than a "publicity stunt," trying to calm fears while not playing down the seriousness of the problem.

White House press secretary Robert Gibbs called on the North to return to the six-party talks.

"We do not wish to talk simply for the sake of talking," Gibbs said. "The North Koreans have to be serious about living up to their obligations." □

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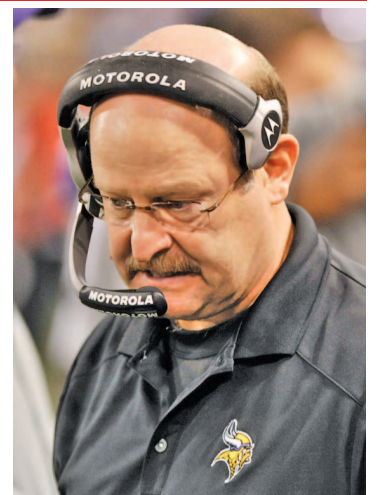




## RODDICK LOSES ATP FINALS OPENER

Andy Roddick of the U.S., serves to Spain's Rafael Nadal during a round robin match at the ATP World Tour Finals tennis tournament at the O2 Arena, in London Monday, Nov. 22, 2010.

*Associated Press*  
Page B7



Minnesota Vikings head coach Brad Childress is shown on the sidelines during the Vikings' 31-3 loss to the Green Bay Packers during an NFL football game Sunday, Nov. 21, 2010 in Minneapolis.

*Associated Press*

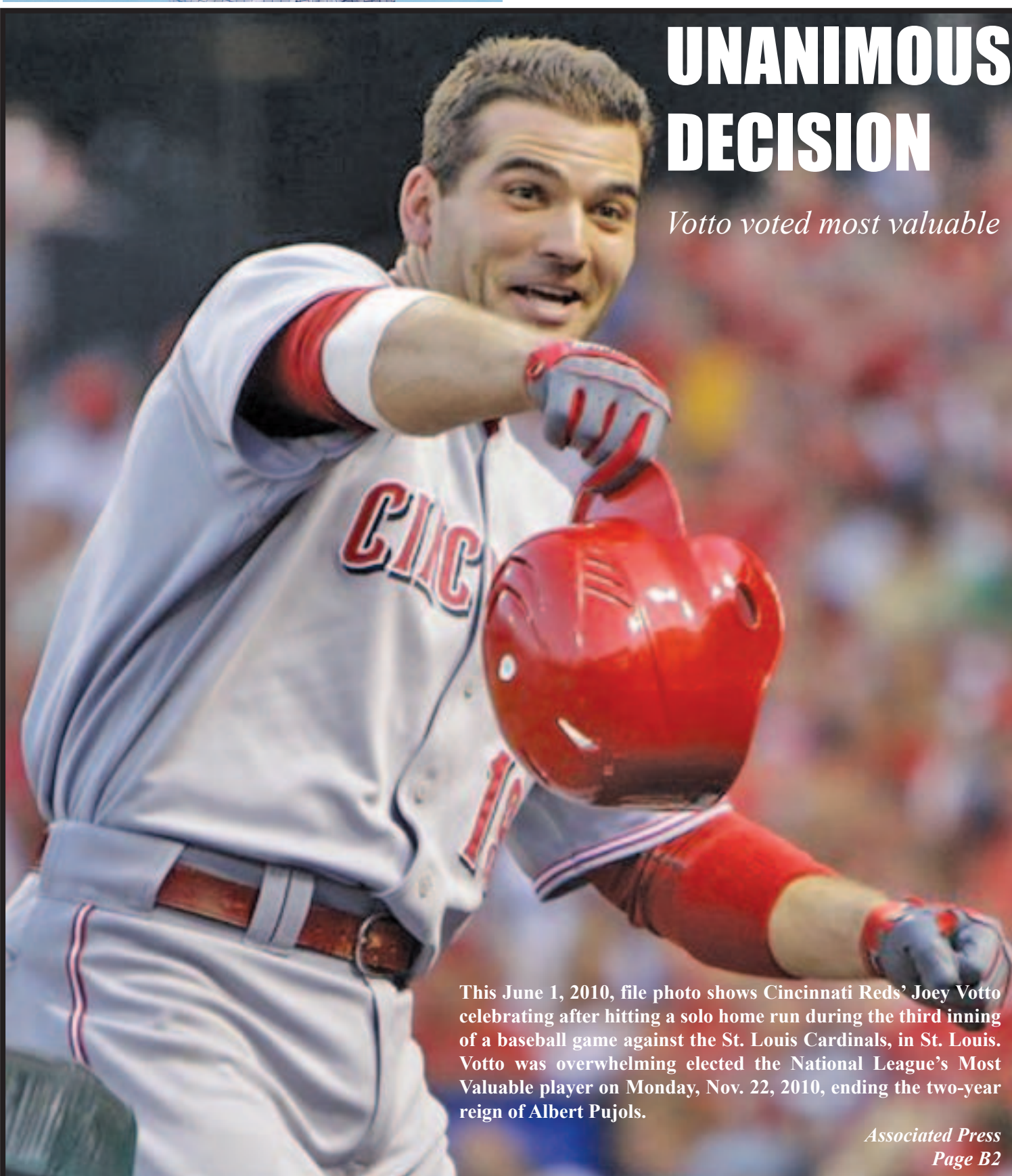
## Vikings fire Childress after falling to 3-7

DAVE CAMPBELL

AP Sports Writer

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — The Minnesota Vikings fired Brad Childress on Monday, cutting ties with a head coach who had come under increasing fire from his players — and his boss — for everything from their horrid start to his 1-2 playoff record and his abrupt decisions. Defensive coordinator Leslie Frazier will serve as interim head coach for the remainder of the season. The Vikings fell to 3-7 after a 31-3 loss to rival Green Bay on Sunday, the final blow to Childress in his fifth season in charge of the team. It was his most-lopsided home defeat as head coach, dropping his overall record to 40-37. Childress took over for the fired Mike Tice in 2006 after spending seven years with the Eagles, including four as the offensive coordinator.

*Continued on Page B3*



## UNANIMOUS DECISION

*Votto voted most valuable*

This June 1, 2010, file photo shows Cincinnati Reds' Joey Votto celebrating after hitting a solo home run during the third inning of a baseball game against the St. Louis Cardinals, in St. Louis. Votto was overwhelming elected the National League's Most Valuable player on Monday, Nov. 22, 2010, ending the two-year reign of Albert Pujols.

*Associated Press*  
Page B2

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# Cincinnati's Joey Votto easily wins NL MVP award



Cincinnati Reds first baseman Joey Votto smiles as he speaks to the media in Sarasota, Fla., Monday, Nov. 22, 2010, after being named the National League Most Valuable Player.

*Associated Press*

**RONALD BLUM**  
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK — Joey Votto and Albert Pujols had a long conversation behind the batting cage before a game a few years ago.

“There’s something about a star player of that magnitude kind of pulling you in and saying, it’s OK, we can talk, don’t be a rookie right now, we’re going to talk like men,” Votto said. “I think he made me feel comfortable and a little more confident.”

Lesson learned.

Votto was overwhelmingly elected the National League’s Most Valuable Player on Monday, ending the Pujols’ two-year reign.

A first baseman who helped the Reds reach the postseason for the first time in 15 years, Votto received 31 of 32 first-place votes and 443 points in voting announced by the Baseball Writers’ Association of America.

Pujols, the St. Louis Cardinals’ first baseman, was second

with the remaining first-place vote, from Joe Strauss of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, and 279 points after winning the award in 2005, 2008 and 2009. “I tried to keep my head down for almost a year there, and it was nice to speak to somebody who’s been there and done that when it comes to everything,” Votto said. “For him to give me time of the day and to talk about defensive stuff and ways to improve my game was very generous of him, and he certainly didn’t have to do that.”

Votto was a first-time All-Star, finishing second in the NL in batting average at .324 and third in homers (37) and RBIs (113). He led the NL in slugging percentage (.600), topped the major leagues in on-base percentage (.424) and had 16 stolen bases in 21 chances.

Pujols batted .312 and led the NL in homers (42) and RBIs (118).

“After the season, when I looked at my numbers and at Albert’s numbers, I thought: ‘Holy cow! He’s beaten me in a lot of them,’” Votto said. “He beat me in runs, he beat me in RBIs, home runs, I think a couple others. I beat him in

a few of the qualitative stats. “I don’t know — I think it was a tossup. I think that it was as close as it can get. I’m not going to go on a limb and say, ‘Oh, yeah, I played a heck of a lot better than him because I beat him in batting average, but we all know that batting average is kind of an overrated statistic.’”

The NL Central standings probably were the difference. “Most importantly, we won,” Votto said.

Colorado’s Carlos Gonzalez was third with 240 points after winning the NL batting title with a .336 average. San Diego’s Adrian Gonzalez (197) was fourth, followed by Colorado’s Troy Tulowitzki (132) and Philadelphia pitcher Roy Halladay (130). Balloting was completed before Votto went 1 for 10 with one RBI and Philadelphia swept the Reds in the first round of the playoffs.

Now 27, Votto didn’t become a major league regular until two years ago. Following the death of his father in August 2008, he went on the disabled list and missed 21 games the following year partly because of depression and anxiety.

“I had a really, really difficult

time I guess getting over the death of my father,” Votto said. “It’s still difficult for me sometimes now. It’s hard when you lose someone in your life that means so much. It was a difficult 2009 and quite a bit less difficult in 2010, and I think that was definitely a big reason why I was able to stay on the ballfield every day and succeed and make progress and feel better about life.”

Votto earned the final spot on the NL All-Star roster by beating out Washington third baseman Ryan Zimmerman, Carlos Gonzalez and Atlanta closer Billy Wagner in fan voting.

“I got there and I saw my peers,” Votto said. “I saw the A-Rods and the Pujolses and the Jeters. And I thought, ‘Well, I just got 14 million votes for the fan voting and I’m still the small fish in the big pond.’”

He joined Ernie Lombardi (1938), Bucky Walters (1939), Frank McCormick (1940), Frank Robinson (1961), Johnny Bench (1970, 1972), Pete Rose (1973), Joe Morgan (1975-76), George Foster (1977) and Barry Larkin (1995) as Reds to win the award. The Reds’ 12 MVPs are tied with the Giants for second in the NL behind the Cardinals (17). In the AL, the New York Yankees have won 20.

The AL winner will be announced Tuesday. Josh Hamilton of Texas is the front-runner.

Pujols has 10 straight top-10 finishes. His three wins and four second-place finishes match those of Cardinals Hall of Famer Stan Musial.

Votto, a bargain with a \$525,000 salary, will be eligible for arbitration for the first time. Neither Votto nor Gonzalez (\$406,000) had MVP bonus provisions. Pujols gets \$100,000 for finishing second. By finishing fourth, Adrian Gonzalez gets a \$100,000 raise to \$6.3 million next season.

Born in Toronto, Votto becomes the third Canadian-born MVP, following Colorado’s Larry Walker (1997) and Minnesota’s Justin Morneau (2006). □

## Ortiz ready to play hard for Red Sox

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — David Ortiz says he is looking forward to playing next season even though the Boston Red Sox did not give him the new multiyear contract he wanted.

“Boston made its decision, and I am going to play hard,” Ortiz said during a news conference Monday to promote his third charity golf tournament. I wanted a new contract, but I know that this is a business. Sometimes good decisions are made and other times not.”

Ortiz led Boston with 32 homers and tied for the team lead with 102 RBIs while hitting .270.

Earlier this month, the Red Sox exercised their \$12.5 million option on Ortiz rather than give the designated hitter a multiyear deal. Boston didn’t want to commit big money beyond 2011 to a player who just turned 35, has had trouble hitting left-handers and rarely plays in the field.

Ortiz also has slipped from career-highs of 148 RBIs in 2005, 54 homers in 2006 and a .332 batting average in 2007.

Ortiz’s past contributions and the fact that he’s a fan favorite contributed to the team’s decision to exercise the



This Sept. 12, 2010, file photo shows Boston Red Sox’s David Ortiz celebrating after scoring against the Oakland Athletics during the sixth inning of a baseball game, in Oakland, Calif.

*Associated Press*

option.

In 2009, he hit just .238, his lowest batting average since he joined Boston before the 2003 season as a free agent from the Minnesota Twins. But he did have 28 homers and 99 RBIs.

Ortiz’s golf tournament will be held from Dec. 2-5 in Cap Cana. Money raised will be used to assist children with heart problems,

“We’re going to do all that is possible to help the children in Boston and the Dominican Republic,” he said. □



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## VIKINGS

*Continued from Page B1*

He was chosen by owner Zygi Wilf to instill discipline and demand better off-the-field behavior from a team that was embarrassed the year before by a bye-week boat party gone bad and a number of other legal problems for players.

However, Childress stumbled in his first year and never fully gained the faith of the fans — or some of his players.

He infamously cut dissatisfied wide receiver Marcus Robinson on Christmas Eve, had trouble connecting and communicating with some of his players and often came across to the public as rigid and aloof.

The offense struggled without a clear solution at quarterback, and it wasn't until last year, when Childress persuaded Brett Favre to put off retirement a second time, that the Vikings finally put up points and became the dominant team that matched the Pro Bowl talent on the roster.

Still, they went from 6-10 to 8-8 to 10-6 to 12-4 in his first four seasons, losing in the NFC title game in overtime last January to the eventual champion New Orleans Saints. Last November, Wilf — pleased by the stability and the progress — gave Childress a contract extension. According to an ESPN.com report on Nov. 19, the deal runs through 2013 but the final year is the team's option.

This season almost seemed

destined for doom, given how smoothly it all went in 2009 until the very end and how well the 40-year-old Favre played by taking care of the ball and making age-defying throws into the end zone.

Favre didn't show up for camp until mid-August, and the next week wide receiver Sidney Rice had hip surgery. Wide receiver Percy Harvin missed big chunks of time, mostly because of migraine headaches, and center John Sullivan was out of action for several weeks with a nagging calf injury.

Coincidence or not, the offense was out of sync to start, Favre began turning the ball over at costly times and the Vikings suddenly were missing last year's magic.

The relationship between Favre and Childress, which was tense at times in 2009, seemed to sour further when Favre threw three ill-fated interceptions in the Oct. 24 game at Green Bay and the Vikings lost to Favre's old team.

Childress, who was just 3-9 against the rival Packers as Minnesota coach, was sharply critical of Favre's decision-making afterward, and the coach drew his



Minnesota Vikings interim head coach Leslie Frazier speaks to the media at the Vikings football practice facility in Eden Prairie, Minn. Monday, Nov. 22, 2010.

own criticism for failing to challenge a Packers touchdown catch that could've been overturned because the ball was being bobbled.

Then the situation really went south following a loss at New England. Wide receiver Randy Moss, acquired in a trade for a third-round draft pick just four weeks earlier, went out of his way to praise the Patriots and criticize Childress in a post-game rant.

The next day, Childress told his players he had cut Moss and never fully explained the situation to them or the public. Wilf was reportedly angry that Childress didn't tell him first of his plan, and there were anonymous reports of growing dissatisfaction in the locker room about the boss. Childress and Harvin got into a heated argument during one practice over an MRI test on his sprained ankle.

Fans made no secret about

their frustration, with thousands of "Fire Chilly" signs distributed on Nov. 7 outside the stadium before the Vikings played Arizona and several chants breaking out from the seats during the game.

The Vikings rallied for an overtime victory over the Cardinals to table the firing talk temporarily, but a 27-13 loss at Chicago on Nov. 14 and the blowout against Green Bay cranked it back up again. □

*Associated Press*

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# Byfuglien, Thrashers edge Islanders 2-1 in OT



Atlanta Thrashers defenseman Dustin Byfuglien, rear, celebrates his game-ending goal against the New York Islanders with Thrashers defenseman Tobias Enstrom (39), of Sweden, in overtime at an NHL hockey game at Philips Arena, Sunday, Nov. 21, 2010, in Atlanta. The Thrashers won 2-1.

*Associated Press*

ATLANTA (AP) — Dustin Byfuglien scored in overtime to give the Atlanta Thrashers a 2-1 victory over New York on Sunday, extending the Islanders' losing streak to 13 games.

NHL Roundup The Islanders have their longest winless streak since a 14-game slide Feb. 13-March 15, 1990.

Byfuglien, a playoff star for the Chicago Blackhawks last season, leads the NHL with four winning shots this season. Ondrej Pavelec stopped 28 shots for Atlanta.

New York's Michael Grabner opened the scoring with 13 seconds left in the second period, and Nik Antropov leveled it on a power play early in the third.

The Islanders have only 12 goals in their last 11 games.

## Red Wings 5, Flames 4, OT

At Detroit, Henrik Zetterberg equalized on a power play with 3.2 seconds left in regulation and goalie Jimmy Howard off for an extra attacker, and Nicklas Lidstrom scored at 1:38 of overtime for Detroit.

Zetterberg had two goals, Lidstrom added two assists and Pavel Datsyuk had a goal and two assists. Johan Franzen also scored for Detroit, which trailed 4-2 midway through the third period. Brian Rafalski had three assists and Howard made 23 saves.

Jarome Iginla had two goals and an assist and Niklas Hagman and Alex Tanguay also scored for Calgary. Miikka Kiprusoff stopped 33 shots. Iginla has five goals and an assist in his last two games.

## Oilers 4, Ducks 2

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — At Anaheim, California, Ales Hemsky scored the go-ahead

goal with 6:31 left in the third period, and Devan Dubnyk made 19 of his 38 saves in the first period to help Edmonton beat Anaheim.

Sam Gagne and Taylor Hall scored 1:41 apart in the second period, helping send the Ducks to their fifth straight loss following a six-game winning streak.

The victory was only Edmonton's third in its last 17 games.

Tom Gilbert was credited with an empty-net goal with 16 seconds left after Anaheim's Corey Perry pass attempt from behind the Edmonton goal went the length of the ice into his own goal.

The Ducks, playing without Teemu Selanne because of a groin injury, got goals from Bobby Ryan and Saku Koivu 22 seconds apart in the second period.

## Coyotes 3, Canucks 2

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Taylor Pyatt scored his second goal of the game 5:52 minutes into the third period and Phoenix extended its winning streak to six games with a win over Vancouver.

Defenseman Keith Yandle walked into the high slot untouched and fired a shot that bounced off Pyatt and under goalie Roberto Luongo's arm. Pyatt, a former Vancouver player, put the Coyotes up 2-0 early in the second period. But Christian Ehrhoff and Tanner Glass scored to tie it before the period ended.

Scottie Upshall also scored, Ilya Bryzgalov made 25 saves and Phoenix, coming off wins in Calgary and Edmonton, swept a Western Canadian road trip for the first time. The Coyotes have recorded at least a point in eight straight games (6-0-2). □

# Richard Petty Motorsports to field two cars in 2011

CONCORD, N.C. — Richard Petty finished financially restructuring his race team and will field two fewer cars in 2011.

The seven-time NASCAR champion said Monday that Richard Petty Motorsports will go from four cars to two next year. RPM will field Fords for AJ Allmendinger and Marcos Ambrose.

The reduction in teams is expected to lead to significant layoffs at RPM, which Petty said "is never an easy process for the people involved."

"Currently, we are concentrating on building two solid programs," Petty said in a statement.

"We are very fortunate to have an extremely loyal family of partners and are looking forward to the future."

RPM was in turmoil the final two months of the season because of the financial problems plaguing majority owner George Gillett Jr. Making it to the final four races of the year was not guaranteed for RPM

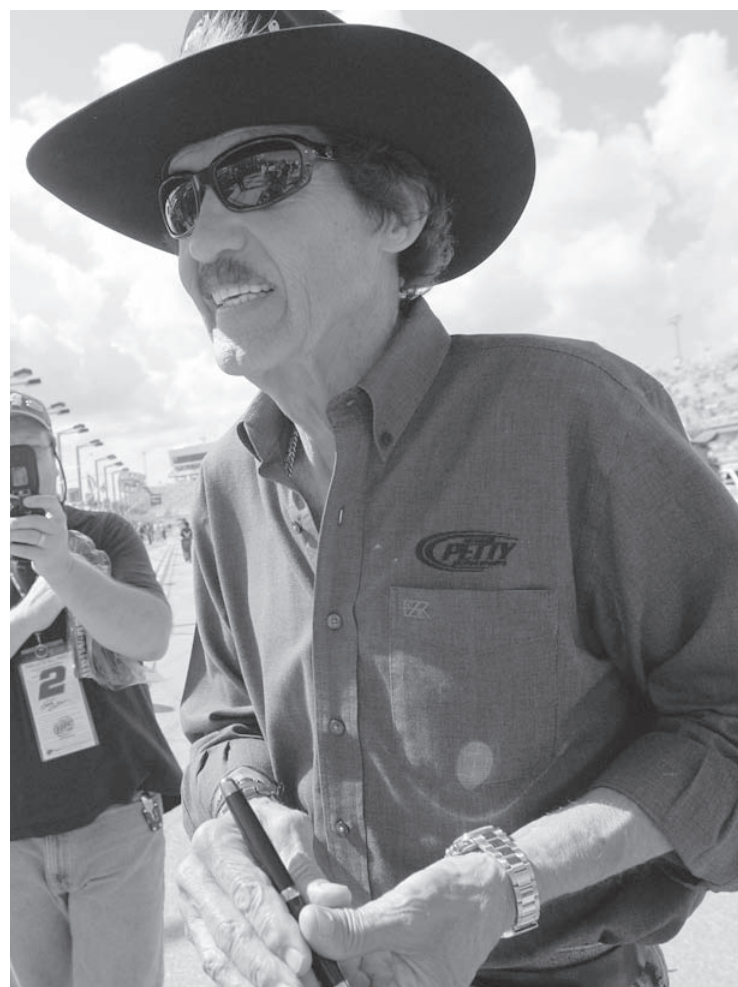
because of debts not paid to partner Roush-Fenway Racing.

Because Roush supplies cars and engines to RPM, inventory was held each week until RPM was able to make a payment against the debt.

Petty owned just a small stake in RPM, but was working on a plan to take control of the organization from Gillett, who has been hit hard the last several years by financial difficulties.

Former partner Ray Evernham said last weekend he is preparing a lawsuit to recover money he believes Gillett still owes him, although he isn't sure whether there is "something there to get."

Debt-laden English soccer club Liverpool recently was sold despite the objection of Gillett and business partner Tom Hicks. And a U.S. hedge fund is suing Gillett over what the firm says is more than \$117 million in debt he racked up investing in Liverpool. □



Richard Petty walks toward the track before the start of the Ford 400 auto race on Sunday Nov. 21, 2010, in Homestead, Fla.

*Associated Press*



# Gasol leads Lakers in route over Warriors, 117-89

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Pau Gasol scored 28 points on 10-for-10 shooting, Kobe Bryant added 20 points and the Los Angeles Lakers won their fourth straight victory with a 117-89 blowout of the Golden State Warriors on Sunday. NBA Roundup Lamar Odom had 15 points and 10 rebounds for the Lakers, who beat their upstate rivals for the 11th straight time, including twice at Staples Center in three weeks.

Los Angeles' 12th win in 14 games to open the season was a laugh by halftime, when the Lakers had hit nearly 66 percent of their shots.

Dorell Wright scored 16 points on 5 of 17 shooting, and Stephen Curry added 13 in the Warriors' fourth loss in five games. Monta Ellis sat out most of the second half after landing hard on his hip.

## Raptors 102, Celtics 101

Amir Johnson made two free throws with 2.7 seconds left and Andrea Bargnani scored 29 points as the Toronto Raptors upset Boston 102-101 to end an eight-game losing streak against the Celtics.

Paul Pierce's shot bounced off the rim at the buzzer,

giving Toronto its first victory over the Celtics since January 2008.

Johnson had 17 points and 11 rebounds, Sonny Weems added 16 points, and Reggie Evans had 16 rebounds and a season-high nine points for the Raptors, who're on a three-match winning roll. Nate Robinson led Boston with a season-high 22 points, and Pierce and Ray Allen each had 19. Boston has lost two straight for the first time this season.

## Hornets 75, Kings 71

At Sacramento, David West had 17 points and Trevor Ariza added 16 to help New Orleans improve to an 11-1 win-loss record, matching San Antonio for the best record in the NBA.

Marco Belinelli scored 12 points, and Chris Paul had nine points and 14 assists for the Hornets, who shot 32 percent and had a season-low point total. New Orleans has won three straight.

Donte Greene had 15 points and 10 rebounds for Sacramento. The Kings have lost nine of their last 10 games.

The Hornets completed a trade Saturday that sent Peja Stojakovic and Jerryd Bayless to Toronto for point

guard Jarrett Jack, center David Andersen and guard Marcus Banks. The three new players are expected to join the Hornets on Monday night in Los Angeles for a game against the Clippers.

## Pistons 115, Wizards 110, OT

At Auburn Hills, Richard Hamilton scored 12 of his 27 points in overtime for Detroit.

Wizards rookie star John Wall missed his fourth straight game because of a sprained left foot. He was on the Wizards' active list, and coach Flip Saunders said before the game that he hoped to get a few minutes out of him, but Wall ended up watching in street clothes.

Charlie Villanueva added 25 points for Detroit. JaVale McGee had 20 points and 16 rebounds for the Wizards. Gilbert Arenas added 19 points and a career-high 16 assists.



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Los Angeles Lakers power forward Pau Gasol of Spain dunks the ball during the second half of their NBA basketball game against the Golden State Warriors, Sunday, Nov. 21, 2010, in Los Angeles. Gasol scored 28 points without missing a shot. The Lakers won 117-89.

Associated Press

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# Boise State closes in on TCU in BCS standings

NEW YORK — Boise State has pushed closer to TCU in the latest BCS standings and seems primed to pass the Horned Frogs with one more big victory.

Oregon and Auburn were still at the top of the standings Sunday. Both were off last week, along with third-place TCU.

Boise State routed Fresno State 51-0 on Friday night, which helped the Broncos gain support in both the Harris and coaches' polls. Boise State was already third in both polls, a spot ahead of TCU, last week. But coming off the blowout victory, the Broncos extended their points lead over the Horned Frogs.

Boise State's computer

ranking also went up this week to fifth for a BCS average of .8860.

TCU is fourth in both polls and third in the computer rankings with a BCS average of .8995.

What Boise State has going for it is the schedule. The Broncos play two more games to TCU's one, including Boise State's biggest Western Athletic Conference game of the season.

The Broncos play at Nevada, which is 19th in the latest standings, on Friday night. A victory against the high-scoring Wolf Pack should give Boise State another boost. Of course, getting that victory will be tough.

As for TCU, it finishes



Boise State's Kellen Moore (11) throws against Fresno State during the first half of an NCAA college football game on Friday, Nov. 19, 2010 in Boise, Idaho.

*Associated Press*

its regular season at lowly Mountain West Conference rival New Mexico — a game that isn't likely to help the Horned Frogs on its own much no matter how lopsided a victory they post.

The third spot in the BCS standings is important for two reasons. Both Oregon and Auburn have tough opponents

left on their schedules and if either drops a game there's a good chance that Boise State or TCU would become the first team from a conference without an automatic BCS bid to play in the BCS national title game.

Oregon plays Arizona and Oregon State. Auburn plays Alabama and South Carolina

in the SEC championship game.

Even if the title game is out, the Broncos and Horned Frogs are competing for an automatic BCS bid that could be to the Rose Bowl.

The team that doesn't get the automatic bid could get left out of the five BCS games altogether. □



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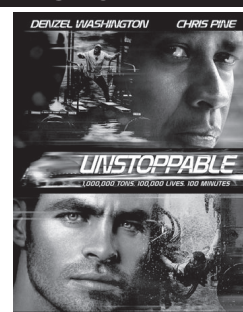
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# Nadal rallies to beat Roddick in 3 at ATP finals

CHRIS LEHOURITES

AP Sports Writer

LONDON (AP) — Rafael Nadal ripped forehands and smacked backhands all over the court Monday, leaving Andy Roddick to watch and wonder as the top-ranked Spaniard rallied to win 3-6, 7-6 (5), 6-4 at the ATP World Tour Finals.

Nadal, who won three of the four Grand Slam titles this year but had lost four straight at the season-ending event, was broken in his first service game and then again early in the second set of the Group A match.

But trailing 2-1 in the second set, Nadal was helped by a pair of let calls on Roddick's booming serve with the American leading 30-15.

Nadal ended up winning both of those points, the second on a double-fault, and then broke back when Roddick sent a forehand long and wide.

In the tiebreaker, Nadal gave up the lead only briefly before winning four straight points to make it make it 6-3.

"To finally win a match here is very important for me," said Nadal, who lost in straight sets in all three matches at the O2 Arena last year. "I can play with a little bit more calm the next match."

With Roddick playing serve-and-volley throughout the match, Nadal was sending shots from both sides of his body past his opponent on long rallies. And it was a backhand winner on break point in the third set that gave Nadal a 3-2 lead that he soon stretched to 4-2.

"Positive thing is I started the match playing bad or so-so, and I finished the match playing much better," said Nadal, who has been out of action for about five weeks. "So always that's good for the mentality, for the feeling, for everything."

On Wednesday, Nadal will face third-ranked Novak Djokovic. The Serb had little trouble beating Tomas Berdych 6-3, 6-3 in the early match.

Roddick came within two points of serving for the match twice at 5-5 in the second set. But Nadal ripped

a forehand winner after a long rally to make it 30-30, and then Roddick sent a forehand return wide. Nadal held serve on the next point with his fourth of six aces.

"The difference was he found his range on his forehand in the second and third sets," Roddick said. "He was able to find his defensive forehand more and wasn't spraying it. That changed the dimension of the rallies a little bit."

Although Roddick's serve couldn't earn him the victory, the eighth-ranked American landed 62 percent of his first serves and won 86 percent of those points, including 18 aces.

"It hinged on the breaker," Roddick said of the second-set tiebreaker.

Nadal, who will finish the year as the No. 1 player in the world for the second time in three years, completed a career Grand Slam this year by winning the U.S. Open. That title followed victories at the French Open and Wimbledon. Combined with the Olympic title in 2008, it leaves the ATP finals as the only major title that Nadal has not won.

Djokovic served well throughout his match, was only taken to deuce in two games and never faced a break point. He also ran his sixth-ranked Czech opponent around the court, using a variety of forehands and backhands to send Berdych sprinting from side to side.

"There is no easy match, easy opponent, whatever," the Serb said.

Djokovic's strong performance aside, Berdych's biggest problem may have been his serve.

The Czech landed only 50 percent of his first serves, and although he only had three double-faults, two of them came in the first game — on the opening point and on break point.

"That is the worst case in every match, if you start pretty bad with a service game and you just give the break up to your opponent," Berdych said. "And if you play Novak, it's even tougher."

Football great Diego Maradona was in the audience



Spain's Rafael Nadal plays a return to the U.S.'s Andy Roddick during a round robin singles tennis match at the ATP World Tour Finals at the O2 Arena in London, Monday, Nov. 22, 2010.

*Associated Press*

for the second day in a row, and Djokovic quipped that the Argentine helped him with his tactics.

"We're working on some specifics, like how to play with hands," Djokovic said of Maradona, who is famous for his "Hand of God" goal against England at the 1986 World Cup.

Djokovic won the ATP Finals

in 2008, but last year failed to advance out of the group stage. Berdych, the only player in the field without an ATP title in 2010, is making his debut.

On Sunday, Roger Federer and Andy Murray won their opening Group B matches and will face each other on Tuesday. David Ferrer will go up against Robin Soderling in

the other match.

In doubles, Mahesh Bhupathi of India and Max Mirnyi of Belarus beat Lukasz Kubot of Poland and Oliver Marach of Austria 7-6 (2), 6-4. In the late match, Daniel Nestor of Canada and Nenad Zimonjic of Serbia defeated Wesley Moodie of South Africa and Dick Norman of Belgium 6-1, 6-2. □

## Hunter 99 percent sure a lockout looms

By BRIAN MAHONEY

AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK — NBA players' association executive director Billy Hunter said Monday he is "99 percent sure" there will be a lockout next summer.

"I think it's highly probable that there will be a lockout and that's what I'm preparing for because I don't see anything else right now," Hunter said.

With negotiations toward a new collective bargaining agreement to replace the one that expires next summer going nowhere, Hunter said he's been instructing his players to save their money. There was no breakthrough in the latest meeting with league representatives last week, and the sides hope to meet again next month. But Hunter said the owners aren't budging on their demands for cuts in salaries, contract lengths and guarantees, annual raises, and the rookie salary scale.

"What's left?" Hunter said in a conference room at the union's headquarters after helping distribute turkeys to 2,000 families outside.

The sides have been negotiating for more than a year, but Hunter agreed with Commissioner David Stern that there's been no progress. And the players are no closer to agreeing to the cuts that the league is seeking.

"I don't really see that the argument's all that compelling for the changes that they're asking for," Hunter said.

The league is calling for a reduction in player salary costs of \$700 to \$800 million and is seeking a hard salary cap to replace the system which now allows for certain exceptions.

The players counter that the current system has worked, pointing to record revenues and ticket sales, and strong TV ratings. They say the total of negotiated salaries has dropped for three straight seasons and forecast a 3 to 5 percent increase in revenues in 2010-11.

"It seems like things are doing all right and so our position is that we want to do what's best for the game," said Knicks guard Roger Mason Jr., a member of the players' executive committee. "Any way that we can make the game better as players, speaking for a lot of the guys, we're all for it. But we don't want to have a deal that's just not fair and that's what we think is being presented to us right now." Hunter said the league has given no feedback on the proposal the union submitted in July. He offered no specifics of it, other than to say the players could be open to negotiating their guarantee of 57 percent of the revenues — which Stern has said is a central issue in the next CBA. □



# Own goal in overtime lifts Rapids to first MLS Cup

TORONTO (AP)—FC Dallas coach Schellas Hyndman knows soccer can be cruel sometimes. It certainly was for FC Dallas defender George John on Sunday night in the MLS Cup.

John deflected a shot into his own net in overtime and the Colorado Rapids beat FC Dallas 2-1 for their first MLS championship.

“You play for 90 plus minutes and it’s a game of inches,” Hyndman said. “It’s a deflection goal. It goes in and you say ‘How did that happen?’”

Dallas captain Daniel Hernandez found it hard to contain his emotions.

“It definitely hurts to get this far and be so close,” Hernandez said. “There’s no words to describe the feeling if you win and there’s no words if you lose.”

League MVP David Ferreira scored for Dallas in the first half, and Colorado’s Conor Casey, selected the game MVP, tied it in the second.

In the second half of overtime, Rapids substitute Macoumba Kandji took a long pass from Casey, drove inside the box, beat a defender and stabbed the ball across the face of the Dallas goal. His shot spun off John’s left thigh and over goalkeeper Kevin Hartman’s head. John was charged with an own goal.

“I don’t mind how they come,” Rapids coach Gary Smith said.



Colorado Rapids teammates pose for a photograph with the MLS Cup after defeating the Dallas FC 2-1 in the championship game in Toronto on Sunday, Nov. 21, 2010.

*Associated Press*

“If they’re winners, it doesn’t matter. For somebody to score an own goal there must be some pressure, they must be under some pressure, to make that mistake.”

The 23-year-old John, a second-year player from Washington, fell to one knee, holding his head in his hands. “I told him you don’t let stuff like that make you who you are,” Hartman said. “You can make it a footnote in your entire resume, but you don’t let it become who you are. He’s a solid defender. He’s probably one of the best defenders I’ve ever played with.”

The attendance was announced at 21,700, a sellout, but there were hundreds of empty seats scattered around the stadium. The temperature at kickoff was 45 degrees.

Kandji, Colorado’s third and final substitute, sprained his left knee on the play and had to limp off, leaving the Rapids a player short for the final 12 minutes.

“At that point, I thought the defenders did their job admirably,” Smith said.

Kandji was slow to leave the field, leading to a confrontation with Dallas’ Ugo Ihemelu, who accused him of wasting

time. Ihemelu shoved Kandji as he hobbled slowly off the field, but was not disciplined. Ferreira nearly set up the tying goal with 5 minutes left, sliding a pass across the box to Ihemelu, but the defender blazed his shot high.

Rapids goalkeeper Matt Pickens made a crucial save in the final minute, pushing John’s shot wide. Moments later, defender Drew Moor cleared a shot off the goal line after Dallas striker Jeff Cunningham had rounded the goalie.

“Jeff’s speed gives him some opportunities sometimes and

I anticipated it pretty early,” Moor said. “I don’t think he quite got as much on it as he wanted to and I was just in the right place at the right time.”

Dallas opened the scoring in the 35th minute when winger Marvin Chavez fired an precise cross into the path of a streaking Ferreira, who used his right foot to hammer the ball past Pickens.

“He scored a great goal,” Casey said. “The ball played into him was perfect.”

It was the second goal of the playoffs for Ferreira, who scored eight times during the regular season and also scored the opening goal last weekend in a 3-0 semifinal victory over Los Angeles.

Colorado tied it in the 57th minute. Jamie Smith cut into the penalty area and fired a low ball at the net, with Casey arriving at the same time as Hartman and defender Jair Benitez. Casey reacted fastest when the ball squirted loose, kicking it into the goal while still lying on the grass.

“(The ball) was caught up between the keeper and the defender,” Casey said. “It was on the ground under his arm. No one could really get to it but my toe so I just poked it in.”

The Rapids nearly took the lead 5 minutes later on a free kick by Jeff Larentowicz, but Hartman dove to his left to push the low, hard shot around his far post. □



MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Manny Pacquiao said Monday he plans to retire by the time he reaches 35 in three years, after his latest win over

Antonio Margarito cemented his boxing superstar status.

Asked at a news conference in Manila when he intends to retire, Pacquiao, who turns 32

## Pacquiao to retire in three years, OK to fight Marquez

in December, said: “Not too long from now, but I don’t want to go beyond 35.”

The boxing champion also said he is willing to fight Mexican Juan Manuel Marquez again but that it would probably not excite fans.

“But I think people are not so interested ... because if I were a boxing fan, I would not watch Pacquiao vs Marquez,” he said.

He said he has no problem fighting Marquez and can sign a contract anytime as long

as the promoter is Marquez’ own, negotiations are fair and he has a guaranteed prize.

Pacquiao, who was elected representative of southern Sarangani province in May national elections, has embraced local politics and surprised many by taking his new job as seriously as boxing.

He said he had initiated steps to build the first provincial hospital for Sarangani’s 500,000 residents, in addition to offering programs for the

poor.

In his speech accepting the congressional award, Pacquiao said he was inspired in the ring by the love for his country, and that his achievements show that Filipinos can excel against all odds.

“My championship belt in the eighth weight division, the first in the history of boxing, shall forever cement the Filipino people as the eighth wonder of the world,” Pacquiao said. □



# US launches giant eavesdropping satellite

MIAMI — The United States has placed in orbit a vast reconnaissance satellite reputed to be the largest eavesdropping device ever launched into space.

The largest unmanned American launch vehicle, the Delta-4 Heavy rocket, roared into the the night sky in Cape Canaveral, Florida on Sunday carrying the mysterious satellite on a mission dubbed NROL-32.

The National Reconnaissance Office did not disclose the purpose of the satellite but widespread reports in the US media suggest it is for eavesdropping on enemy communications.

“This second Delta IV Heavy launch for the NRO is the culmination of years of

hard work and dedication by the combined NRO, Air Force, supplier and ULA team,” said United Launch Alliance vice-president Jim Spennick.

“ULA is pleased to support the NRO as it protects our nation’s security and supports our warriors defending our nation around the world.”

It was only the fourth time that the Delta-4 Heavy -- the most powerful liquid-fueled rocket booster with a massive two million pounds of thrust -- has flown.

The launch of the NROL-32 had been moved back from October 19 due to delays for undisclosed reasons. □



NASA image of the planet Earth. The United States has placed in orbit a vast reconnaissance satellite reputed to be the largest eavesdropping device ever launched into space.



**FILE** - In this undated photo released by the Australian Customs Service on April 5, 2006, an officer holds drying shark fins found on a suspected illegal fishing boat in the waters off Cape Wessel in the Northern Territory of Australia. Sharks are in trouble, and scientists say the world has a chance to protect them by setting Atlantic catch limits at international conservation conference this week in Paris. While fishing is tightly regulated, there are almost no rules when it comes to catching sharks, scientists say.

(AP Photo)

By ANGELA DOLAND,  
Associated Press

PARIS — With their pointy teeth and fearsome reputations, sharks may not be the best poster child for species in danger, but environmentalists say the predators are in dire need of protection.

Marine experts and conservation groups hope an Atlantic conservation conference in Paris this week will bolster what they say are disastrously inadequate rules on shark capture.

“There are shark populations that have declined by 99 percent, so it’s a real severe

## Experts demand better protection for sharks

situation, and there are virtually no protections at an international level,” said Elizabeth Griffin Wilson, a marine wildlife scientist at conservation group Oceana. Oceana wants delegates to toughen the existing ban on shark-finning — the practice of slashing prized fins off the animals and tossing them overboard to die — as well as prohibiting the capture of some threatened Atlantic sharks and setting catch limits for others.

Right now, only one shark species is under international protection in the Atlantic — the bigeye thresher — and there are no catch limits on others, it said in a report released Monday.

Elaborate international fishing regulations and quotas govern other types of fish, such as tuna, the main focus of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), meeting this week through Saturday in Paris.

Sharks have historically been an afterthought in the fishing industry. ICCAT deals with highly migratory sharks because they are often an accidental catch for tuna fishermen. Conservation

groups say the rise of Asia’s middle class, combined with the continent’s penchant for pricey shark fin soup, a traditional delicacy, has turned sharks into a lucrative target.

“It’s time the world looks at sharks and starts to set serious measures to save them, otherwise these creatures that have been around since before the time of the dinosaur will quickly go the way of the dinosaur,” said Matt Rand, director for global shark conservation at the Pew Environment Group. More than 1.3 million highly migratory sharks were caught in the Atlantic in 2008, the year with the most recent data, Oceana calculated based on figures from ICCAT. Even then, Oceana believes the figure is a “gross underestimate” because 11 out of ICCAT’s 48 member countries didn’t report any shark catches at all in 2008. “If you took those sharks and lined them up, they would stretch from Washington D.C. to Los Angeles, and that’s just (in) one year,” said Oceana’s Wilson.

Oceana said 21 of the world’s 72 highly migratory shark species were reported caught in the Atlantic in 2008. It

said three-fourths of those 21 species are designated as threatened with extinction in parts of the Atlantic by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

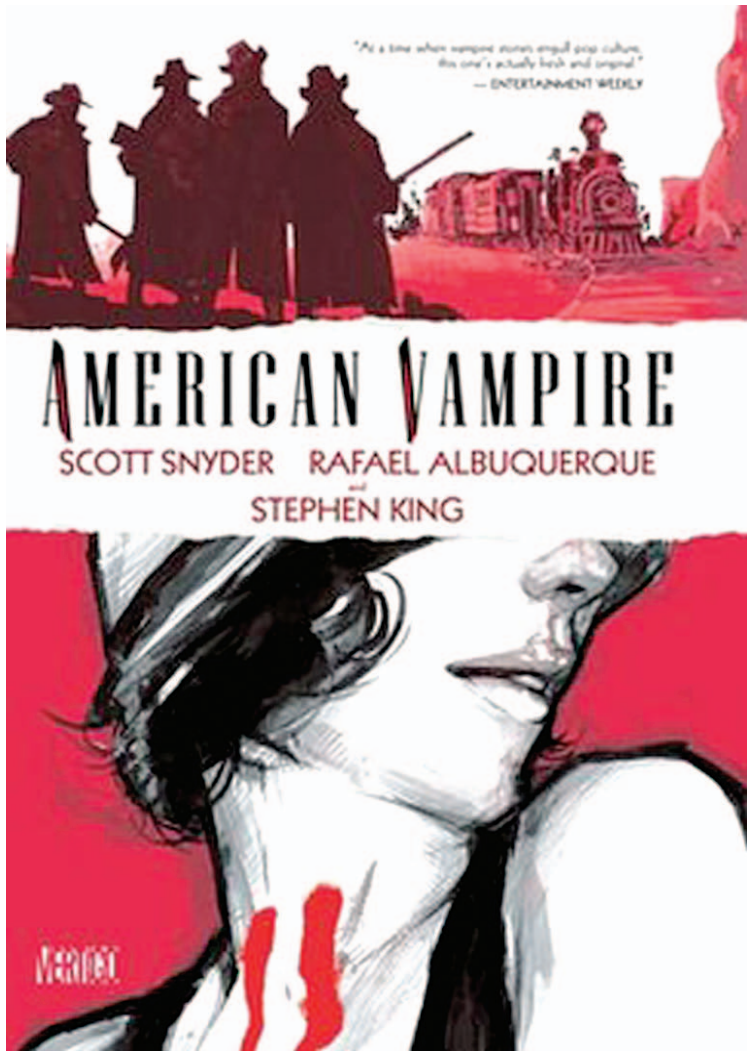
Oceana, Pew Environment Group and others say the existing ban against shark-finning in the Atlantic has too many loopholes, and fishermen should be required to bring sharks back to shore without their fins severed.

Fishermen now are allowed to slice off the fins before they bring the sharks ashore as long as they don’t throw the bodies overboard. That makes fraud easier to commit, since it’s harder for inspectors to make sure no bodies have been thrown out to sea, environmentalists say. While ICCAT and other regional commissions regulate fishing, trade bans are handled by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, or CITES.

Environmentalists were sorely disappointed by a CITES meeting in March, where six species of sharks failed to get protection despite studies showing their numbers had fallen by up to 85 percent because of the booming fin trade. □



# Stephen King's vampire is anti-"Twilight" and evil



In this comic book cover released by Vertigo, the latest installment of Vertigo's ongoing 'American Vampire' series about a former outlaw turned bloodsucker, created by Scott Snyder and augmented by Stephen King, is shown.

By **MATT MOORE**,  
Associated Press  
PHILADELPHIA — Skinner Sweet's his name, but the long, lean drifter is anything but. The titular character in Vertigo's ongoing "American Vampire" series, the former outlaw turned bloodsucker is charting a course of decadent evil, pacing the expansion of growing United States as Hollywood moves from silents to talkies and Las Vegas begins its bloom of avarice, greed, lust and power. Created by writer Scott Snyder, Sweet's story was augmented by Stephen King, the author whose literary creations have been creeping out readers since the early 1970s. "Scott and I did each other a favor. I lent my name, which got the mag going with a little bit more of a higher profile, and he lent me his expertise," King said of the collaboration. But unlike the wave of pop culture vampires in recent years — grounded, lovelorn, conflicted — Sweet

is shiftless, selfish, utterly without redemption and pure evil. King wouldn't have it any other way. Sweet, he said in an interview, is the "anti-Twilight vampire, the anti-Edward," a "dissolute Kurt Cobain" with a mean streak a mile wide and a sweet tooth for hard candy to match. He likens the story arc prepped by Snyder to the work of crime writer James Ellroy whose work has explored the "underbelly" of America. "Scott put this thing together where you have a chance to see all these aspects of American life, American growth and American expansion," King said, and Sweet is "sucking the life out of everything." The aim of the series — King helped write Skinner's origin in the first five issues, now collected in a hardback edition for sale at book stores and local comic book shops — is to chart how a new world means a new type of vampire. The art is done by Rafael Albuquerque. The story concerns Pearl,

a wannabe actress from the Midwest who is fed upon by a cabal of old world vampires from abroad and left for dead in 1920s. Her story runs parallel with Sweet, the bank robber also left for dead and infected by the vampire virus in the late 1800s, his coffin below not just the ground, but a newly created lake. He's released when souvenir hunters dive down to reclaim his bones or hat or anything that they can sell to collectors. King said he was exposed to the character when Snyder e-mailed him a draft of the initial script, seeking his thoughts and, maybe, a blurb for the cover. Snyder got more than that. "I read it and I was turned on by the whole idea that it was the anti-'Twilight' vampire, the anti-Edward. I said I

absolutely loved this and would like to be involved and he brought me on board," he said. King said it was also a chance for him to get involved in a medium he had, until now, largely not been part of, comic books. Some of his works have been adapted for the format, including his "Dark Tower" series, along with others. "The more that I came to it, the more that I saw, the more that I thought the whole comic book thing — there's such a tendency for people who are, particularly my generation — to think of comics as Caspar the Friendly Ghost and Little Lulu," King said. "But there's some amazing things. ... It's a serious format and I think a lot of people come to it expecting juvenilia and they find something that's a lot more sophisticated.

"If 'American Vampire' helps to open up people's minds to that, then I'm happy." So far, King said, he's hooked and "American Vampire" won't be his last foray into comic books. He's mulling a creator-owned book for Vertigo and possibly another tale about Sweet, too, that he's discussed with Snyder. "I did talk to him a little bit about doing a Skinner Sweet rock 'n' roll story. You know, around the time of Elvis and Carl Perkins and Little Richard and all that," King said. "That would be fun." King said the format is ripe for storytelling. "There's room to grow. I like new stuff. Short stories, novels, screenplays, all those things are great, but I've done them all and this is something new and it's kind of fun," he said. □

## Bieber wins 4 AMAs, including artist of year

By **NEKESA MUMBI MOODY**,  
AP Music Writer

Usher was in tears after losing two awards at the American Music Awards to Justin Bieber, including favorite entertainer of the year, the top AMA honor. But Usher wasn't upset about his loss — far from it. Instead, he was welling with pride over the success of his young protege, Justin Bieber, who was the night's biggest winner with four awards and the youngest performer ever to capture the entertainer award. "To see Justin take the award — having received that award before — it was like an out of body experience, you understand?" Usher said backstage. "It was emotional. I don't cry that often, but I did. Hopefully it gives an indication of how hard we worked to build a career that hopefully will flourish and blossom over the years." Bieber, who is signed to Usher's label, had a perfect debut at the American Music Awards, winning all four awards he was nominated for: entertainer of the year, breakthrough artist of the year, favorite pop/rock male and favorite pop/rock album for "My World 2.0." Bieber's debut album is one of the



Usher, left, and Justin Bieber pose with their awards backstage at the 38th Annual American Music Awards on Sunday, Nov. 21, 2010 in Los Angeles.

year's top-sellers, with almost two million sold, and he's got a new CD, "My Worlds Acoustic," out this week at Walmart. His ascension marks a phenomenal rise since first garnering attention via homemade videos on YouTube about three years ago. "This means the world to me," said Bieber after winning breakthrough artist. "I come from the smallest town in the world, of like 30,000 people; I never thought this was possible." Bieber bested mentor Usher and Eminem for two of his wins. Eminem, whose "Recovery" was a critical and commercial triumph, was nominated for five awards on the

(AP Photo/Chris Pizzello) evening, tying him with Lady Antebellum, who also had a breakthrough year with their near triple-platinum album "Need You Now." Neither were the night's big winners, but they came away from the night with something: Eminem got two awards, while the country trio won favorite country band, duo or group. "Thanks for inviting us to the party," said Lady A's Charles Kelley after the win. Other winners included Black Eyed Peas and Taylor Swift. But Sunday's ceremony at the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles was as much a showcase for acts with new albums as it was a celebration of the biggest achievers of 2010. □



# BUSINESS

## Aruba TODAY

### Adviser pleads guilty in NY pension fund probe

By JENNIFER PELTZ,  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A once-powerful Democratic political consultant pleaded guilty Monday to a felony securities-fraud charge and admitted that he played a central role in an influence-peddling scandal that shook the state's massive pension fund.

"I intentionally engaged in fraud, deception ... (and) corruption," Henry "Hank" Morris said, his voice low but steady as he admitted being at the fulcrum of the pay-to-play scheme at the \$125 billion retirement pool, one of the world's largest government pension funds.

Morris acknowledged using his ties to former state Comptroller Alan Hevesi to get millions of dollars in payouts for himself, to channel money to cronies and to solicit campaign contributions for Hevesi from firms seeking state business.

Essentially, Morris acted as an expensive go-between for firms seeking a piece of the state pension fund investment pie: They were told that their chances of sealing multimillion-dollar deals would improve if they paid him or certain others as "placement agents," prosecutors said.

Morris faces the possibility of up to four years in prison at his sentencing, set for Feb. 1, though he could also get probation. He also agreed to forfeit \$19 million in gains from the scheme, and he'll be banned for life from the securities industry and from doing business with the state.

Morris and his lawyers declined to comment as they left court.

Hevesi and five other officials, political figures and investment advisers have already pleaded guilty in state Attorney General Andrew Cuomo's sprawling probe into the pension fund. A number of investment executives and firms that haven't admitted any criminal responsibility have nonetheless paid millions of dollars in penalties. With Morris' forfeiture, the state will have recovered nearly \$160 million for the pension fund, Assistant Attorney General Ellen Biben said.

The plea also wraps up a major piece of the case before Cuomo, a Democrat and New York's governor-elect, moves on to his new office in January.

Morris was the chief political adviser to Hevesi, a Democrat who oversaw the fund as comptroller from 2002 until he resigned in an unrelated scandal in 2006.

Prosecutors have said Morris was the driving force in the pay-to-play arrangement. It drew in some big financial names, including the Quadrangle Group, then run by Obama administration auto industry czar Steven Rattner, authorities said. Quadrangle Group secured a \$150 million pension fund deal after agreeing to pay Morris \$1 million in "placement" fees, authorities said.

Quadrangle agreed in April to pay \$12 million to settle the investigation into its part in the pension fund shenanigans. The Securities and Exchange Commission announced last week that Rattner himself had agreed to a \$6.2 million fine and a two-year ban from the securities industry to settle a federal probe into his role in the matter. □

### Stocks slip on concerns euro crisis will spread

By DAVID K. RANDALL,  
Associated Press  
Business Writer

NEW YORK — Broad stock indexes fell sharply in midday trading as concerns grew that the European financial crisis will spread.

Ireland formally asked for help from its neighbors over the weekend after falling into a financial crisis brought on by losses at the three banks the country nationalized. Details of the loan package were still being worked out, but Irish Finance Minister Brian Lenihan has said the rescue would not exceed euro100 billion (\$137 billion).

It was the second time that the European Union has come to the rescue of one of the 16 countries that use the euro. In May, the EU and the IMF committed \$140 billion to Greece to prevent the country from defaulting on its debt. Euro zone members have been willing to prop up each other's finances in hopes of avoiding a financial crisis that could cause the value of the euro to plummet.

Ireland's request initially pushed stocks higher in Europe. But the Euro Stoxx 50, an index of blue chip companies in countries that use the euro, fell 0.6 percent in afternoon trading there.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down almost 90 points in midday trading.

Ireland's request for assistance does not put an end to the questions facing the euro zone. Fellow members Spain, Portugal and Italy are also saddled with heavy debt burdens and investors fear that they may also need a financial lifeline from other EU members. The euro fell 0.8 percent against the dollar. "It's been difficult for the European Union to get ahead and stay ahead of the market's concerns, despite the large sums they are clearly willing to dedicate," said Robert Tipp,



Staff Sgt. Salvatore Giunta, the first living Medal of Honor recipient from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, is applauded by traders on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange in New York, Monday, Nov. 22, 2010.

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

the chief investment strategist for Prudential Fixed Income. Ireland's announcement that it would seek assistance contributed to stock losses because it was not detailed enough to restore investor confidence, he said.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 85.90, or 0.8 percent, to 11,117.65.

The broader S&P 500 fell 6.88, or 0.6 percent, to 1,192.85.

Technology stocks posted small gains. The technology-focused Nasdaq composite index rose 0.47, or less than 0.1 percent, to 2,518.59.

All 10 industry groups that make up the S&P 500 index were down. Financial and energy companies fell the most, with each losing more than 1.5 percent.

Investors will sort through a full plate of economic data this week but trading will be shortened by the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday.

Reports set to be released Tuesday and Wednesday include October home sales, an update of consumer sentiment, and revisions to earlier estimates of the third-quarter gross domestic product. Some economists expect that the latest reading on U.S. economic growth for the third quarter will be slightly higher than the previously estimated

2.0 percent increase.

Tyson Foods Inc. announced that it beat analyst estimates and earned \$213 million, or 57 cents per share, during the last quarter. The meat producer lost \$457 million, or \$1.23 per share, a year ago. Shares rose 0.6 percent to \$16.28.

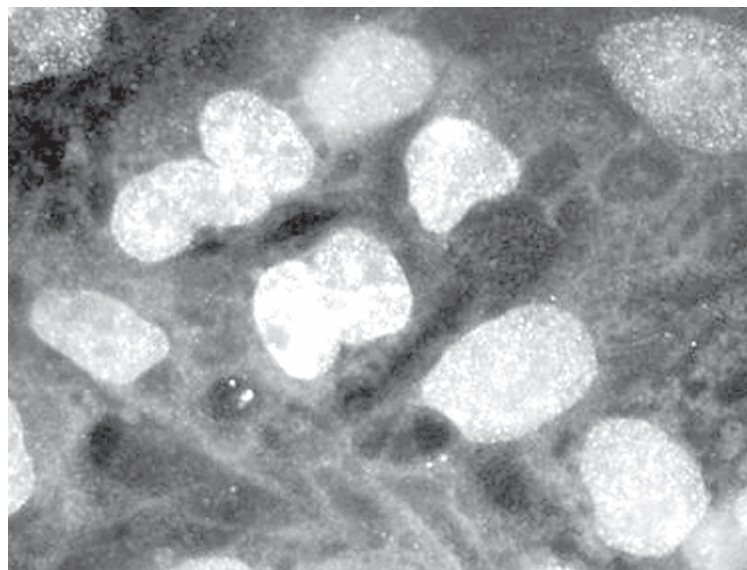
Movie rental company Netflix Inc. said it will shift its focus to streaming television shows and films online, a departure from its model built around sending DVDs to customers in the mail. The company raised the price of its DVD subscription plans and will soon launch a cheaper streaming-only plan in the U.S. Shares rose \$12.48, or 7.2 percent, to \$185.53. The company's shares have more than tripled this year.

Health insurer Humana Inc. said it plans to purchase privately-held health care company Concentra Inc. for \$790 million in cash. Humana rose \$1.99, or 3.6 percent, to \$58.02. Hewlett-Packard Co. will release earnings after the market closes. It will be Hewlett-Packard's first earnings report since former chief executive Mark Hurd resigned in August amid allegations of sexual harassment. He was replaced by chief financial officer Leo Apotheker. □





## Feds OK 2nd human study of embryonic stem cells



Stem cells are viewed on a computer screen at the University of Connecticut.

By MALCOLM RITTER, NEW YORK — For only the second time, the U.S. government has approved a test in people of a treatment using embryonic stem cells — this time for a rare disease that causes serious vision loss. Advanced Cell Technology, a biotechnology company

based in Santa Monica, Calif., said the research should begin early next year, following the green light from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Just last month another biotech company, Geron Corp., said it had begun preliminary testing in people for treating spinal cord injuries by injecting cells derived from embryonic stem cells.

Scientists hope to use stem cells to create a variety of tissues for transplant. But human embryos have to be destroyed to harvest those cells, which has made their use controversial.

ACT's experiment will focus on Stargardt disease, which affects only about 30,000 Americans. But the company hopes the same approach

will work for similar and more common eye disorders like age-related macular degeneration, which affects millions.

Stargardt is an inherited disorder that attacks central vision used for tasks like reading and recognizing faces. Some patients go totally blind, even losing peripheral vision, while others are severely impaired and can only perceive light or see their hands moving in front of their faces.

The disease typically starts in adolescence. The key problem is that impaired scavenger cells fail to remove toxic byproducts from the eye, allowing them to build up and kill other cells. There is no proven treatment.

In the new study, 12 patients will be treated with healthy scavenger cells, created in a laboratory from human embryonic stem cells. This early phase of the research is primarily to test the safety of various doses, injecting only one eye of each patient.

"We're also hoping to see some improvement in visual acuity, but that's a bonus," said Dr. Robert Lanza, ACT's chief scientific officer.

The research will be performed at medical centers in Massachusetts, New Jersey and Oregon, ACT said.

Stephen Rose, chief research officer of the Foundation Fighting Blindness, said his group is "very, very glad" that ACT has permission to begin the study. □

## Children of Divorce Face Twice the Lifetime Risk of Stroke: Study

By Alan Mozes

Children of divorce appear to have more than double the lifetime risk for experiencing a stroke compared with those whose parents' marriage stays intact during their childhood, new research suggests.

The finding stems from a survey of more than 13,000 Canadians, about 10 percent of whom had experienced parental divorce when they were young children or adolescents.

"I certainly don't want this to be taken to mean that children from divorced households are condemned to have strokes," said study author Dr. Esme Fuller-Thomson, a professor and Sandra Rotman Chair in the faculties of social work, medicine and nursing at the University of Toronto.

"This is just one factor among many that may increase stroke risk," she noted. "And we don't know that it's causal, in the sense that divorce leads to a stroke. It could be that many other things are at work here that are related to divorce, but are not divorce itself. We just don't know yet."

Fuller-Thomson is slated to present her team's findings Monday at the Gerontological Society of America's annual meeting in New Orleans.

To explore the question, the authors sifted through data that had initially been collected in 2005 by Statistics Canada, the Canadian equivalent of the U.S. Census Bureau.

The current study focused on survey participants from two Canadian provinces, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Nearly 1,400 of the 13,000 respondents had experienced parental divorce, and just fewer than 2 percent (248) said they had experienced a stroke at some point.

The research team looked into a wide range of potentially influential factors, including age, race, gender, socioeconomic background, educational background, adult mental health history, childhood physical abuse history, long-term parental unemployment, lifestyle issues (such as obesity, and smoking and drinking behaviors), and diabetes history.

Ultimately, the researchers determined none of these variables explained the bottom-line finding: that children of divorce seem to bear an approximately 2.2 times higher risk for lifetime stroke. "This needs to be replicated several times to make sure there really is this relationship," cautioned Fuller-Thomson. "But if this holds up, one possible explanation is that adverse child experiences may become physically embedded in the way you react to stresses later on in life, particularly in terms of dysfunctions in cortisol levels, which is what's involved in the fight-or-flight mechanism. It's possible. But that's just a hypothesis at this point," she added.

"But the other important thing to note is that even if divorce is proved to cause stroke, many

of these people who we looked at who are having stroke are now in their 60s, 70s and 80s," she noted. "That means they experienced divorce in the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s, when the consequences and context for divorce were quite different. So we can't take their experience and project into the future, since it's very different to be a child of divorce today. So this is novel and interesting, but people really should not go into panic mode over it."

Meanwhile, Dr. Kirk Garratt, clinical director of interventional cardiovascular research at Lenox Hill Hospital within the North Shore-Long Island Jewish Systems in New York City, agreed that it is premature to draw any conclusions based on the finding.

"But it certainly stimulates a discussion, because we would want to understand what actual mechanisms underpin this, particularly since divorce itself is probably not a modifiable risk factor. Meaning, you're not going to tell people they can't divorce because they're going to give their child a stroke," he explained.

"So what's worth looking at is not the socially charged issue of divorce itself," Garratt said, "but rather what is the unique social trauma that might come along with divorce that perhaps alters something physiologically in children of divorce. And that could prove to give some direction to studies of stress, and how stress can cause real physical harm." □







# Cyberthieves use human money mules for risky work

By ALICIA A. CALDWELL  
PETE YOST,

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sitting at a computer somewhere overseas in January 2009, computer hackers went phishing.

Within minutes of casting their electronic bait they caught what they were looking for: A small Michigan company where an employee unwittingly clicked on an official-looking e-mail that secretly gave cyberthieves the keys to the firm's bank account.

Before company executives knew what was happening, Experi-Metal Inc., a suburban Detroit manufacturing company, was broke. Its \$560,000 bank balance had been electronically scattered into bank accounts in Russia, Estonia, Scotland, Finland and around the U.S.

In August, the Catholic Diocese in Des Moines, Iowa, lost about \$680,000 over two days. Officials there aren't sure how hackers got into their accounts, but "they took all they could" before the bank noticed what was going on, according to Jason Kurth, diocese vice chancellor.

The diocese and the Detroit company were among dozens of individuals, businesses and municipalities around the country victimized by one of the largest cybertheft rings the FBI has uncovered.

In September, the bureau and its counterparts in Ukraine,



This poster released by the FBI shows photos of individuals wanted by the FBI and shows Eastern European Cyber Criminals, wanted on a variety of federal charges stemming from criminal activities including money laundering, bank fraud, passport fraud, and identity theft in New York. Complaints were issued by the United States District Court, Southern District of New York, in September of 2010. The court records of Operation Trident Breach reveal a surprise: For all the high-tech tools and tactics employed in these computer crimes, platoons of low-level human foot soldiers, known as 'money mules,' are the indispensable cogs in the cybercriminals' money machine.

the Netherlands and Britain took down the ring they first got wind of in May 2009 when a financial services firm tipped the bureau's Omaha, Neb., office to suspicious transactions. Since then, the FBI's Operation Trident Breach has uncovered losses of \$14 million and counting.

Overall in the last two years, the FBI has opened 390 cases

against schemes that prey on businesses that process payments electronically through the Automated Clearinghouse, which handles 3,000 transactions every five seconds. In these cases, bureau agents have uncovered attempted thefts totaling \$220 million and actual losses of \$70 million. But the court records of Operation Trident

Breach reveal a surprise: For all the high-tech tools and tactics employed in these computer crimes, platoons of low-level human foot soldiers, known as "money mules," are the indispensable cogs in the cybercriminals' money machine. A dozen FBI criminal complaints filed in New York provide an inside look at how this cybertheft ring worked:

(AP Photo/FBI)

Operating from Eastern Europe and other overseas locations, the thieves used malicious software, known as malware, to infect the computers of unsuspecting users in the United States by e-mail. The malware-infected e-mails were written to look like they came from a company manager or colleague who might send an e-mail message to everyone in a company, such as the head of human resources.

When the e-mail recipient clicked on an embedded link to a website or opened an attachment, a Trojan horse virus called Zeus installed itself and gathered usernames, passwords and financial account numbers typed by the victims on their own computers. The hackers then used this information to move the victims' money electronically into bank accounts set up in the United States by the money mules.

The money mules set up shell bank accounts to receive the money. Then they withdrew the funds from the shell accounts in amounts they thought were small enough to elude detection by banks and law enforcement. In some cases, the cyberthieves bombarded telephone numbers attached to the targeted accounts with calls to block the company from calling to verify the transactions.

The mules sent most of the stolen funds overseas electronically to accounts controlled by the ring leaders; the mules usually kept 8 to 10 percent as their cut.

For instance, the FBI said money belonging to one TD Ameritrade customer landed in the bank account of a fake company, the Venetian Development Construction Service Corp., which was registered at an unmarked, two-story brick building in Brooklyn. The sole name on the construction company's account was that of one of the money mules. Eventually some of the money wound up in accounts in Singapore and Cyprus and some walked out the bank's door in the pockets of mules. □



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# Siguen búsqueda de cabecilla de las FARC

BOGOTA (AP) - El ministro de Defensa Rodrigo Rivera afirmó el domingo que siguen buscando “metro a metro” en un bombardeo campamento de las FARC para dar con un miembro del estado mayor de esa guerrilla, que creen murió en un bombardeo la víspera. En caso de confirmarse la muerte de José Benito Cabrera, alias “Fabián Ramírez”, de 47 años, sería el más reciente golpe a las guerrillas Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC), tras el abatimiento el 22 de septiembre de Víctor Suárez, alias “Mono Jojoy”, visto como el jefe militar de ese grupo rebelde. El bombardeo se realizó la madrugada del sábado en una zona rural de San Vicente del Caguán, a unos 280 kilómetros al sur de la capital colombiana. “Hemos encontrado seis (cuerpos), faltan ocho, que estamos buscando, (y) entre



En caso de confirmarse la muerte de José Benito Cabrera, alias “Fabián Ramírez”, de 47 años, sería el más reciente golpe a las guerrillas Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC).

quienes esperamos que podamos encontrar a este cabecilla” Ramírez, agregó Rivera a la radio Caracol. “Seguimos registrando metro

a metro a ver, hasta que podamos encontrar”, añadió Rivera antes de partir a Bolivia para participar esta próxima semana en un encuentro hemisférico de titulares de Defensa. Aseguró que una de las rebeldes sobrevivientes del ataque “ya nos confirmó que

era el campamento de Fabián Ramírez, que él se encontraba allí”.

Ramírez, conocido por sus acciones como miembro de la jefatura del Bloque Sur de las FARC, un potente frente rebelde que protagonizó en los años 90 contundentes acciones contra las fuerzas militares; es uno de la veintena de miembros del llamado “estado mayor” de las FARC o la instancia por debajo del “secretariado” o jefatura colegiada de siete comandantes guerrilleros del que eran parte “Mono Jojoy” y Raúl Reyes que murió en un bombardeo en 2008.

Por información que condujera a la captura de Ramírez ---sobre quien pesan al menos 13 ordenes de captura según ha dicho el presidente Juan Manuel Santos-- el Departamento de Estado de Estados Unidos ofrece una recompensa de 2,5 millones de dólares. □

## Rousseff mantendría a Gabrielli como presidente Petrobras: medio

SAO PAULO (Reuters) - La presidenta electa de Brasil, Dilma Rousseff, posiblemente mantenga a José Sergio Gabrielli como presidente ejecutivo del gigante petrolero Petrobras por al menos otro año, dijo el lunes el diario O Estado de S. Paulo, sin citar fuentes.

El objetivo de la decisión sería ayudar a aumentar el control del Gobierno sobre la riqueza petrolera de la nación, agregó el medio.

El presidente saliente y mentor político de Rousseff, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, le aconsejó mantener a Gabrielli durante el 2011 para avanzar con un plan que renueva las leyes que regulan la industria petrolera de Brasil, dijo Estado.

La empresa, a través de una portavoz en Río de Janeiro, declinó comentar sobre el reporte.

El mayor accionista de Petrobras es el gobierno federal, que -junto a entidades estatales- mantiene una participación combinada del 48 por ciento en el capital de la firma.

Gabrielli ha estado al mando de Petrobras desde el 2005, y durante su mandato la empresa realizó el mayor descubrimiento en las Américas en más de tres décadas.

También guió este año a Petrobras a través de la mayor oferta de acciones de la historia, de cerca de 70.000 millones de dólares. La presencia de Gabrielli ayudaría a Rousseff a encabezar los esfuerzos de dividir las regalías entre los estados productores y no productores y llevar a cabo las inversiones de capital por 91.000 millones de reales (53.000 millones de dólares) de Petrobras en el 2011, dijo el diario.

El rol de Palocci ayudaría a Rousseff a reunir respaldo entre los alcaldes y gobernadores de estados para sus planes de reestructurar el sistema de regalías de petróleo, dijo Estado.

Maria das Gracias Foster, una directora senior de Petrobras que es cercana a Rousseff, posiblemente permanezca en la empresa, aunque su nombre aún está siendo considerado para un puesto en el gabinete, reportó Estado. □

## Encuesta: peruanos buscan un presidente honesto en comicios 2011

LIMA (AP) - Los peruanos buscan un presidente cuyo perfil tenga como principal virtud la honestidad en los comicios de abril de 2011, indicó un sondeo nacional del diario El Comercio y la firma Ipsos-Apoyo publicado el domingo.

Ante la pregunta ¿cuáles deberían ser las características del presidente ideal?, 68% eligió la “honestidad” como primer rasgo, 38% pidió que tenga “visión de futuro” y otro 38% consideró que el próximo mandatario debe ser “trabajador”.

El sondeo nacional fue realizado entre el 17 y 19 de noviembre con 1.200 personas y tiene un margen de error de 2,8%.

A cinco meses de los comicios que definirán quien gobernará el país entre 2011 y 2016, los peruanos también consideran que el siguiente presidente debería ser “capaz”,

“democrático”, “sensible socialmente”, “buen comunicador” y “organizado”.

El actual mandatario Alan García, cuya gestión acaba en julio, tiene una impopularidad de 62% en noviembre y quienes desaprueban su administración señalan que “no cumple sus promesas” y que existe “muchísima corrupción en su gobierno”.

Los resultados marcan una tendencia iniciada en setiembre cuando otro estudio de Ipsos-Apoyo detectó que 80% busca que el próximo gobierno realice cambios al modelo económico, enfatizados en el combate a la corrupción y la mejora educativa.

Perú es elogiado internacionalmente por el manejo de su economía y por ser un imán para las inversiones, pero un tercio de los peruanos son pobres en especial en las zonas rurales andinas y amazónicas. □





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